

M I N U T E S
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006 - 9:00 A.M

Present: Chair: Councillor Sanders
Members: S. Gray; L. Kirstein; A. Lansdell; R. Mason;
Staff: K. Kreiger, Director of Parks and Recreation; T. Ryan, Community Events Specialist, Recreation; S. Hvozdzanski, Planning Supervisor, Community Planning; C. Duncan, Research Assistant, Archives; M. Brothers, Committee Clerk
Guests: J. Saracuse, P. Freeman, C. Pickup

Regrets: V. Green, F. Carpenter, K. Bridge, B. Clarke, P. Cohen

There was no quorum.

APPLAUSE AWARD

C. Wilson received the Applause Award for her excellent work with the art displays at the Municipal Hall.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS UPDATE

The Community Events Specialist provided an update on the Centennial Celebration and noted:

- Media sponsorship includes CH for television, the Q and the Zone for radio, and Saanich News for print media. CH has produced four commercials, thirty seconds each, advertising the Centennial. The Saanich News printed a Centennial Supplement for the March 1st addition of the paper.
- The Times Colonist is the event sponsor for the Shelbourne Street Easter Parade to be held on April 16th. Commencing at Kenmore and concluding at McKenzie, the parade will be approximately an hour long with a mix of bands, floats, walking groups, and other entries.
- The Healthy Saanich Pioneer Tea will be held on May 25th at Saanich Commonwealth Place honouring those who have lived in Saanich for fifty years or more and are over seventy years of age. The Saanich Multi-Cultural Centennial Festival will also be held at Saanich Commonwealth Place from May 25th to May 28th.
- The month of June will have a Freeman Ceremony on the 10th, the Saanich / Oak Bay Mayor's Lawn Bowling Challenge on the 24th, the Centennial Challenge along the Centennial Trails on June 25th, and the beginning of Sunfest on June 30th, which will continue until July 9th. The 40th Annual Saanich Strawberry Festival will be held on July 9th.
- The Grand Finale Event, August 26th, will be a night of family entertainment at the University of Victoria, headlined by the Victoria Symphony and special guest Natalie McMaster.
- The Centennial Book is almost sold out so another printing is being planned. The Centennial Calendars are being used as promotional items. Ocean Promotion is selling all other Centennial merchandise with a portion of the funds going to the Saanich Legacy Foundation.

MT. DOUGLAS FINE ARTS WING PROPOSAL

J. Saracuse, P. Freeman, and L. Kirstein presented the Mt. Douglas School Theatre Proposal to the Committee. Highlights of the presentation included:

- There is currently no theatre in South Vancouver Island with a wheelchair accessible stage.
- Kaleidoscope Theatre, a professional theatre troupe with a youth focus, is very interested in running the proposed Mt. Douglas Theatre in exchange for having it as their permanent home.
- Currently, despite the fact that 75% of Mt. Douglas students participate in Fine Arts Programs, the only space in the school available for performance is the tin-roofed gymnasium which doesn't even have a stage. The facilities available for visual arts are also extremely limited, even in comparison to some elementary schools.
- The Mt. Doug Fine Arts Wing Proposal could address the community needs for not only a small to medium sized theatre, but also for fine arts production and gallery display space.
- Saturday May 6th, from 1 pm to 5 pm, Mt. Douglas is hosting a festival of the arts to raise community awareness of the significant participation of Mt. Douglas students in Fine Arts Programs. Other community groups will also be participating, including the Victoria Symphony, Kaleidoscope Theatre and Island Illustrators.
- Significant fundraising efforts will begin in 2007, which is also the school's 75th Anniversary.
- The next step in bringing this proposal into reality is creating a partnership between Saanich Council and the School District; an endorsement of this proposal in principle from the Committee would be an important step in that direction.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

ARTS POLICY AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES BYLAW

The Planning Supervisor noted:

- Under the current Unsightly Premises Bylaw, unless a mural has been through a jury process or received approval from Council, it is considered graffiti.
- The report recommends that members of the Committee act as a standing sub-committee to jury private sector murals in a timely manner and that the terms of reference for the Committee and the Comprehensive Arts Policy be amended to reflect the jury process for private sector murals.

The report will be discussed at a future meeting.

HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

The Planning Supervisor introduced the process for forming the Heritage Action Plan noting:

- While Saanich currently has a strong program for identifying and protecting heritage buildings, there is a need for policy on other heritage concerns.
- The process for forming the Saanich Heritage Action Plan will begin with input from appropriate groups including this Committee. Following analysis and research of the input, a draft document will be created which will then be re-circulated for feedback from all groups which provided input. Once the feedback is incorporated into the document, it will return to this Committee if the changes are significant enough, and once it receives endorsement from this Committee it will be sent to Council.

- One of the Strategic Plan Initiatives is to have a Saanich Heritage Action Plan completed by December 2006.

Discussion ensued and comments from the Committee were noted by the Planning Supervisor. It was the consensus of the Committee that the comments should be forwarded to those members not in attendance with a request that they provide their input directly to the Planning Supervisor.

RESIDENT LETTER CONCERNING PUBLIC ART

The Chair read a letter dated March 19, 2006 she had received from Colonel Brygadyr which detailed his concerns regarding the jury process used to select the piece a Centennial Trail Public Art project. His specific concern was that Saanich Council does not make the final decision on the selection of the piece.

The Planning Supervisor noted that the piece in question was selected using the process detailed in the Saanich Comprehensive Arts Policy. The chosen artist had the opportunity to choose the site for installation of the piece.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Legislative Division should provide a response to the Brygadyr letter in the usual manner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday April 27th, 2006 at 9:00 am in the Kirby Room.

Councillor Vicki Sanders, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary