

M I N U T E S
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007 - 9:00 am

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: K. Bridge; P. Capek; S. Gray; V. Green; A. Lansdell
Staff: K. Kreiger, Director of Recreation; D. Thorpe, Community Arts Specialist; A. Haney, Special Events Coordinator; I. Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk Assistant
Guests: Jeff Nagle, Director, Morguard Investments.

MINUTES: Moved by V. Green and Seconded by S. Gray: "That the Minutes of April 26, 2006 be adopted."

CARRIED

**PRESENTATION: Town and Country Shopping Centre Redevelopment
Jeff Nagle, Director, Morguard Investments**

Councillor Derman stated:

- Construction will start shortly on what is likely to be the premier shopping centre destination in the region.
- There are opportunities within the development for the arts: this could involve an arts and cultural centre, performing arts, and history and heritage recognition.
- The long blank wall facing Blanshard Street provides an excellent opportunity for some form of artwork, and the central plaza or square is a natural area for a performance venue.
- Another focal point is at the corner of Saanich and Blanshard, which will be a transit hub.
- Where the Galloping Goose Trail connects through the development could be an area for interpretative signs and an opportunity to tie into the history and heritage of Saanich.

Mr. Nagle stated:

- The pre-planning and development work has been on-going for about five years.
 - He has been working with staff, community groups, the tenants and BC Transit.
 - The existing retail centre was built in 1961 and it has been exceptionally successful.
 - The proposal is for a complete redevelopment of the entire site.
 - Walmart and Shoppers' Drug Mart will function throughout the process.
 - He estimates it will take 2 years to complete the first phase, another 2 years for the second phase, and finally the construction of the residential component adjacent to Ravine Way.
 - The entire project will be built to sustainable standards, incorporating LEEDS silver standards and best practices, which is a new process for Canada.
 - A partner has been found for the residential element, and they will be coming to Council for a Development Permit shortly.
 - He distributed plans and described the concept of having a main street with a variety of store frontages and limited on-street parking to give the appearance of a vibrant town street.
 - Most of the parking will be underground, however. Today there are 1100 surface parking stalls; the new proposal is to have 400 on-street parking spaces.
 - They have done a lot of research regarding the on-street parking and found the centres with
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on-street parking benefit from the life it brings.

- There will be a dedicated transit lane along Saanich Road with five bus stop locations around the perimeter of the centre; buses will not enter the shopping centre. Corporate bus passes for employees as an incentive to use public transit are being discussed.
- Walmart's new location will be cut into the bank along Blanshard Street. There will be no retail frontage along Blanshard Street and this presents a good opportunity for public art.
- There will be water features and landscaping along Blanshard, taking advantage of the slope towards Saanich Road.
- The commercial and retail space will be tripled in density. As well as the retail space, there will be service offices, lawyers, doctors, dentists, and an abundance of restaurants, open space and creative landscaping.
- There are numerous opportunities for public art, Saanich heritage and the performing arts.
- Morguard wants to hear ideas early in the design process so they can be incorporated.
- The central plaza will have a large water feature, green space and landscaping, with restaurants fronting onto the plaza: it will be the community focal point of the shopping centre and he doesn't want it to feel "large and empty", but rather vibrant with lots of activity.
- A staff person has been hired to coordinate events and he hopes each season will be different; Christmas and summer will be less of a challenge than the spring and fall.

In response to comments and questions from the Committee, Mr. Nagle stated:

- Construction is due to start around July 1st this year, with the Grand Opening being in the summer of 2011. However, a significant milestone will be the summer of 2009 when the new Walmart opens, signifying the completion of the first half of the project.
- The design team has no preconceived ideas regarding art displays or components; they want to receive as much input as possible from the community before making any decisions.
- It is important that the areas be multi-use.
- Because this is private property, there will be no pan-handling allowed.
- Performance groups will be encouraged, such as school choirs and dance troupes, jazz quartets, etc., although he noted it will be a challenge as there are residents living nearby who may object to the noise.
- Marketing staff and event planners will be hired; he is hoping for a balance of community events and commercial opportunities.

Some ideas put forward by members were:

- Dedicated pavers with the names of historical Saanich families around the fountain in the central plaza area.
- Glassed alcoves or areas, perhaps in restaurants, around the plaza or down the main street, containing rotating displays of vintage costumes and/or artwork. Noted these areas would have to have appropriate lighting, humidity, air control and security.
- The centre would be an ideal location for the Saanich Museum, which has been discussed for many years; Mr. Nagle felt that while a good idea, it would be very challenging because construction costs are high and a space of 10,000 square feet could be prohibitive. Even if partnerships could be arranged, staffing is still an issue. It might be more economical to have a small, secure display area with rotating displays.
- Would be important to have a "behind the scenes" aspect to handle the rotating displays in a timely manner so as not to interfere with the day to day operations of the centre.
- All agreed the Blanshard Street frontage would be an excellent local for a mural or to apply some of the historical boards or banners used for the Centennial.

- The Blanshard/Saanich corner may be a possibility for a kiosk on Saanich pioneers.
- The Galloping Goose/Lochside Trail intersection could have information kiosks highlighting the history of the railroad. External displays will be minimal maintenance.
- The Committee hoped that Morguard would have an on-going relationship with the committee and the community at large, touching base from time to time so the development can continue to be a growing process.

Councillor Derman thanked Mr. Nagle for his time and suggested that members send any additional thoughts or suggestions by email to the Secretary. A list can be compiled and discussed at the June meeting, and the ideas forwarded to Mr. Nagle.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK

Ms. Haney thanked everyone involved for contributing to the huge success of the Community Arts Celebration at Cedar Hill on April 27, 2007.

- Almost 2000 people attended to view displays from 54 artists and participate in 20 activities, as well as enjoy excellent dance and choral performances.
- Thank you letters have gone out to all involved, and she would like to specifically thank Pauline Cohen who did a wonderful job organizing the entertainment.
- Special thanks also to the Recreation Department who provided staff support and use of the venue, which has much more space and a better venue than the actual centre.
- The silent auction collected almost \$2,000, double the revenue from last year.
- Although advertised as free admission, a donation box was set up, collecting over \$300.
- Next year, the event will be advertised as being 'admission by donation'.
- Taking into consideration the carry-over from last year, revenue and in-kind contributions received this year, and the expenditures, we have net proceeds of \$2,019 to carry forward to next year's event, which is scheduled for April 26, 2008.

Councillor Derman thanked Ken Kreiger and his staff for their support and especially Anna Haney, who once again did an excellent job of organizing the event.

- He also thanked the committee members for their support, in particular Pauline Cohen who did a great job of organizing the entertainment.
- It was a very successful event, and he had many people approach him with positive comments. Given the size of the venue, there are opportunities for future expansion.
- Now is the time to look for partners and entertainers for next year.
- He will report at the June meeting on discussions at the upcoming staff meeting regarding the future direction and funding for special events.

HERITAGE BUS TOUR (Sunday, September 16, 2007)

The secretary confirmed:

- The bus has been booked through Gray Line after the mix up with Wilsons last year. Also Gray Line, at \$475 plus GST, is about \$100 less than Wilsons.
- Tea has been confirmed at \$10 pp at Goward House; tax and gratuity to be added.
- Valerie Green and Anne Lansdell have almost completed a draft of the proposed route and a map will be prepared so participants can follow along.

- The secretary will prepare a brochure, with snippets of information on the scheduled stops and other places of interest, with the map on the back.
- Information has been sent to the Recreation Department for inclusion in the Active Living Guide which will be distributed in August, and arrangements have been made to have the tickets sold through the recreation centres, as per last year.
- Notice has also been sent to various organizations to include the information in their newsletters, (TLC, Saanich Pioneer Society, Saanich Historical Artifacts Society, Friends of BC Archives, and the Department of History at UVIC).
- Only two things have to be firmed up: a speaker for the tea at Goward House and the price of the tickets. Rosemary from Goward House was looking into a speaker.
- At \$26.15 we will “break-even”. Noted that \$25 a ticket seems like a better price; we would be “out of pocket” about \$50.
- Noted that other heritage bus tours on the Island, including a tea, are much less than \$25. There is a limit that people will pay.

CREATING A COMMUNITY ARTS STRATEGY – Diane Thorpe

Ms. Thorpe stated:

- Three focus group meetings have been held to date: with staff, SCAN and artists’ groups.
- On **Wednesday, June 20**, taking the input from the previous focus group meetings, we will look at the gaps and opportunities; it would be beneficial if members from the committee could attend this meeting, (6:30 p.m., Cedar Hill Recreation Centre).

HERITAGE PANELS

Councillor Derman confirmed that he, together with Caroline Duncan, met with MUSE to discuss the deterioration of the Centennial Heritage Panels. MUSE agrees that they faded very quickly and have requested an opportunity to work with their supplier to discuss options. It is likely there will be some form of compensation.

ARCHIVES UPDATE

Written update received from Caroline Duncan advising that she will have details about the relocation of the Archives to the new Centennial Library at Pearkes in June. The move to the new facility is targeted for the end of August/early September.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 28, 2007**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary