

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007 - 9:00 am

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Peggy Capek; Pauline Cohen; Hazel Bowman; Valerie Green; Sharon Hallsor; Anne Lansdell.
Regrets: Kathryn Bridge; Sandra Gray.
Staff: Charlene Parker, Community Services; Caroline Duncan, Archives; Diane Thorpe, Community Arts Specialist; Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.

Minutes: Ms. Cohen asked that the September 20, 2007 minutes reflect that she was not in favour of approaching Morgard Investments as a sponsor for the Community Arts Event.

Moved by Ms. Green and Seconded by Ms. Cohen: "That the Minutes of September 20, 2007 be adopted as amended."

Carried.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK UPDATE

Councillor Derman stated:

- A letter has been sent to Morgard Investments requesting \$5,000 in sponsorship, signed by Sharon Hallsor and sent on behalf of the sub-committee established for the Community Arts Week – it is not directly connected with the ACH Committee.
- Anyone from the ACH Committee is welcome to join the sub-committee, which currently has himself, Carol Pickup, Councillor Vicki Sanders, Sharon Hvosdanski, and Rob Phillips as members.
- He also met with Bob Yarish, Manager of TD Canada Trust (Tillicum Branch), who seemed very keen to explore a possible sponsorship, as well as Dannielle Parks of VanCity.
- He will be approaching Coast Capital Savings and some major food stores to see if there is any interest.
- He is quite confident that one of the financial groups will come through.
- Talks have been initiated with Nelly Furtado's representatives to see if she would consider appearing at the Community Arts Event, and he will also approach David Foster. Both these artists are very community minded.
- He met recently with Anna Haney and Rob Phillips regarding the event to determine what had been done in the past and the future direction.
- The first sub-committee meeting should be held within the next week or two.

RAINBOW/CHRISTMAS HILL DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Derman stated:

- Although the development was approved at the October 2, 2007 Public Hearing, before Final Reading is granted, Council has asked the developer to address many issues, some of them through covenants.
- He approached the developer about having an interpretative sign highlighting the history and heritage of the area, and he was very open to the idea.
- The sign could include information on the natural history of the area and how it was formed, the history of the First Nations, and the history of the Europeans who have lived on the hill.
- Hopefully other developers will be encouraged to include interpretative signs on their developments.
- A Saanich Policy already requires 1% of the budget of a large development to be assigned to public art and multi-family developments have to provide 5% in lieu of green space.
- Although Council is not empowered by provincial legislation to require 1% for public amenities, it is allowed to bargain – and art is a public amenity.
- Perhaps the Arts Policy should include a statement about seeking public art as part of a public development.
- He is willing to follow up on this concept with the developer, and work with staff and this committee on the information to include on the sign.

Discussion noted although it is something Saanich has not traditionally done in the past, it is a good idea. A developer who is asking for a rezoning may be willing to make a few concessions to gain support. Other forms of public art could include murals and sculptures as well as interpretative signs.

In response to a question about a possible jury process for the public art, Councillor Derman noted:

- If the contribution is voluntary then probably the developer would decide. However, if the 1% for public art becomes a requirement, or if it is bargained for as part of the development, then he suggested that the developer could be encouraged to refer the matter to this committee and/or to municipal departments to be juried.
- With respect to Christmas Hill, the developer seems quite amiable towards the idea of installing an interpretative sign and may want to attend an ACH meeting to explore the concept.

Staff noted that the Parks Department should be consulted to ensure the sign follows the same format and style as other interpretative signs, that the information is properly researched to ensure as much accuracy as possible.

POSSIBLE FUTURE FOR OUTERBRIDGE PARK (Chair)

Councillor Derman stated:

- He has spoken with the Parks Manager and the Director of Recreation about this proposal for Outerbridge Park (discussed at the September meeting) and both seem interested.

- He has also talked to Marlene Russo, Mrs. Outerbridge’s representative, who was going to speak to Mrs. Outerbridge; he has not heard back from her yet.
- Perhaps a trip to Roche Harbour to look at the sculpture park there may be in order.
- It is unfortunate that an adequate budget for maintenance of the Outerbridge property was not allocated when the property was gifted to Saanich. The garden has degenerated considerably and will take time and money to restore it.
- The Parks Department has set aside funding to bring the pathways up to standard, but this won’t happen until the spring.

Discussion followed and it was questioned whether this property could be managed in a similar way to the Glendale Lands, or if there could be a “Friends of Outerbridge Park” volunteer group formed, similar to the Friends of Mt. Doug and Friends of Mt. Tolmie. The gardens could also be used as a training ground for horticulture students. Valerie Green offered to write a Saanich News article on the history of the area.

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Sharon Hallsor entered the meeting at 9:35 a.m.
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Councillor Derman agreed these were good suggestions, noting that we would have to ensure there are no union issues. Charlene Parker offered to check into this aspect.

ARCHIVES UPDATE AND RELOCATION PLANS – Caroline Duncan

Caroline Duncan stated:

- The Archives Department is still in a holding pattern due to the library’s job dispute.
- All the archival records are safely stored at the new library but staff are continuing to operate from the annex until they receive the word to officially open at the new location.
- She is trying to see if the Archives could be open at the new location by appointment.
- All committee members will receive an invite to the opening, when it happens.

ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY

Dianne Thorpe stated:

- The Open House will be held on Saturday, November 3 at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.
- Information from the focus groups held over the past year will be available.
- She is working with UVIC to highlight the cultural infrastructure in Saanich on large maps and we will be able to see what is missing and mark this on the map.
- The general public, as well as those who took part in the focus groups, are welcome.

RIVERSONG: A celebration of Life Along the Colquitz

Diane Thorpe stated:

- The BC Arts Council, through the arts based Community Development Programme, has just awarded the Saanich Legacy Foundation \$15,000 towards the first year of a

multi-year community arts project called “RiverSong: A Celebration of Life Along the Colquitz”.

- Working with professional artists Paula Jardine and Caroline Knight, the project will be developed through a number a workshops and events, incorporating poetry, song, spoken words, visual art, biology and natural and cultural history.
- Saanich Community Services has been financially supporting this project over the past year with in-kind contributions of recreation space, park assistance and arts administration.
- As part of the project, the first annual “RiverSong: Sing the Salmon Home” was held in Cuthbert Holmes Park on BC River’s Day, September 30. About 60 people participated in the event.

HERITAGE PANELS – UPDATE

Caroline Duncan stated:

- The panels were reprinted and displayed at Goward House, but they started peeling from the stands because the tension was not correct and they rolled down.
- They have been sent back to supplier for remounting and hopefully should be back within a week or two.
- The colour looks much better.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE ARTS & CULTURE IN SAANICH

Councillor Derman stated he would like to have a general discussion on various opportunities to increase the promotion of arts and culture in Saanich and wonder if the Committee members have any ideas on this subject.

The following comments were noted:

- Perhaps consideration should be given to increasing the Parks Department’s budget so they can properly maintain the various parks, trails and pathways in Saanich. What is the point of acquiring more parkland if there is no money to maintain them.
- As noted earlier – volunteers could assist with park and trail maintenance.
- Perhaps Saanich needs to review which parks are well used, and which ones are not – concentrate on the well-used areas and leave the others as natural parks.

In response, Councillor Derman stated:

- He does not disagree with the rationale to increase the Parks budget; the Committee could make a recommendation to Council in this regard.
- However, he noted that Saanich spends more than the average for a municipality of our size across the province. The \$35 million a year already allocated is money well-spent. This compares to budgets of between \$20 – 25 million for other municipalities across Canada.
- Saanich has a lot of parks to maintain and we also continue to acquire parks – the budget is already stretched. Many of the parks are left in their natural state and require little maintenance.
- It must also be considered that Saanich has a lot of infrastructure to maintain, replace and upgrade – and this will continue to increase over the next few years.

- He considers parks as part of the infrastructure.
- He will talk to past-Chairs Pickup and Sanders regarding a report that was sent to Council about arts-related projects that were initiated but have not been completed in order to get an update on the status of these projects and our next steps.

Ms. Lansdell stated it seems that the Committee does not address the “Culture” in Saanich. If that is part of the mandate of the Committee, perhaps we are missing something that needs consideration.

Charlene Parker stated:

- Saanich does have cultural celebrations, such as the Multi-Cultural celebration.
- This function is usually handled under Healthy Saanich, but there is definitely an overlap and she could bring information to this committee about projects the Healthy Saanich Committee is currently considering.
- With respect to the Parks Budget, part of the challenge is having enough staff resources to do the maintenance work, and having the staff to manage it. In the past, the Union has been very supportive of volunteer projects.

Diane Thorpe stated:

- According to the Creative City Network of Canada, the definition of culture includes the performing, visual, literary and media arts; library, archives and heritage resources; and socio-cultural activities as practiced and preserved in a community.
- There are also definitions for Arts and Cultural Resources; she will ensure a full description is provided to the members with the next agenda package.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 22, 2007**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary