

M I N U T E S
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, January 24, 2008 - 9:00 am

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Peggy Capek; Sandra Gray; Valerie Green; Sharon Hallsor; Anne Lansdell.
Staff: Ken Kreiger, Director of Recreation Services; Sharon Hvozdzanski, Planner; Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.
Regrets: Kathryn Bridge; Hazel Bowman; Pauline Cohen; Caroline Duncan.
Minutes: Moved by Ms. Lansdell and Seconded by Ms. Gray: "That the Minutes of November 22, 2007 be adopted as amended."

Carried.

DRAFT OCP – Sharon Hvozdzanski

Copies of the draft Plan were distributed to members and Ms. Hvozdzanski stated:

- She is not looking for feedback at this time, but is here to answer questions.
- At the February meeting, members should be ready to provide input and recommendations on the arts, culture and heritage aspects through verbal or written comments.
- A consultant was hired to prepare the first draft, which has been circulated to advisory committees, focus groups, telephone and on-line surveys, open houses, etc.
- Two open houses will be held at the end of February.
- Input from these groups will be considered and the plan amended if necessary before taking it to Council in early April for a formal review.
- Some things remain unchanged from the 1993 version – such as the UCB and ALR boundaries, protection of parks and the environment. Although there are changes in density in some areas we need to ensure these are places people will want to live – and this committee has a role in this aspect.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK UPDATE`

Councillor Derman stated:

- Morguard is unable at this time to be a title sponsor, although they did contribute \$500.
- They will become more involved once the new shopping centre is up and running.
- An application for a \$5000 grant request has been submitted to the Saanich Legacy Foundation and he is very optimistic. In return for becoming the event's title sponsor, the SLF can raise its profile and gain publicity.
- He believes this partnership would be a good fit and a win-win situation for all involved.
- Although the SLF has been around for many years, it is largely unknown at this time.
- As a title sponsor, it would be on all printed materials and media releases, and a booth can be set up at the actual event.
- Also, sponsorships received can be channeled through the SLF and tax receipts issued.

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Sharon Hallsor entered the meeting

- The Recreation Department will provide a one-year recreation pass as one of the three major door prizes.
- Admission will still be “free” or by donation; make a donation - you get a ticket on the three major door prizes (worth at least \$300 to \$500). Hopefully this will encourage people to donate. Still to be decided if you have to be present to win.
- Artists from Goward House as well local schools (Mt. Doug, Arbutus, Frank Hobbs & Cedar Hill) will be participating in the event. Mt. Doug will provide a jazz band to play outside the venue.

Anna Haney provided an update on the event, scheduled for April 26, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

- The time has been extended by an hour at the request of the artists.
- Tables costs have increased slightly this year: \$30 for demonstration artists and \$50 for businesses (ie: no demonstrations – just straight sales or promotions).
- 400 applications were mailed last week and 12 responses have been received to date.
- Many of last year’s sponsors are willing to participate again this year, including the News Group, CFax, Shaw Cable, Pacific Audio Works, Community Arts Council, Saanich Lions, Island Displays (even with their contribution, it will still cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 for the draping, tables, chairs, etc)., and Thrifty Foods.
- Valerie Green will do an editorial in the Saanich News on the event and the studio tours.
- A special guest this year is graphic artist Fenwick Lansdowne; he will be there between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. His work will be on display during April at the Municipal Hall.
- Advertisements will be placed in Boulevard Magazine and Island Parent, as well as the Saanich Active Living Guide and the Saanich website.
- Various activities have been arranged, including an art activity with Ritha Mason, print making with the Art Gallery, mosaics, recycled art, clay play, and a beading demonstration by the Native Friendship Centre.
- New to the programme this year is culinary arts. Camosun College has been contacted but unfortunately April is a difficult month as most students have already finished the programme. Camosun recommended we contact Island chef Steve Walker Duncan. Chef Michael Williams has been contacted. David Mincey (Camille’s) was also suggested.
- The Horticulture Centre will be doing a gardening demonstration, providing seeds for children to plant in pots.
- Adam Richards at Community Services will help with the youth art exhibit to showcase the Lime Light Youth Festival that will take place in May.
- Lily Wallace, now retired art teacher from Cedar Hill Middle School, will arrange for an art display here and also at the other recreation centres and libraries.
- The Sculpting Guild will provide a soap stone carving demonstration.
- People wearing heritage fashions will be strolling through the venue, as well as clowns making animal balloons.
- Garth Homer Centre wanted to take part again this year with an art demonstration.
- There will be a silent auction. Last year’s was very successful and she hoped we could get similar contributions this year. She asked members if they had anything they wanted to donate, or if they knew anyone who had something to contribute.

The Chair suggested that we arrange for a display of native art; he knows a native artist and will talk to him. It was understood that the “special guest” this year would be Fenwick Lansdowne and we don’t want the artists to be in competition with each other. He also offered to check with Claremont School, which has an extensive video arts programme.

Artists' Studio Tours

- Broadmead and Cordova Bay will combine their tours this year – April 19/20, 2008.
- Scattered Artists will be featured April 26/27, 2008.
- Cadboro Bay, Goward House will be on May 3, 2008
- Gordon Head on May 3 and 4, 2008.
- Saanich West on May 10/11, 2008
- The Gorge area is unable to coordinate a tour this year.

SAANICH ARTS ISSUES, CONCERNS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Councillor Pickup's November 15, 2005 report

Councillor Derman suggested it would be beneficial to review the recommendations in Councillor Pickup's report to see which issues have been addressed, which ones are outstanding and whether they are still relevant.

Twelve public art projects to be handled by jury process between 2005/2007:

- Sharon Hvodanski stated there have not been 12 projects over the past two years, but there are a few on the list, such as
 - the entrance floor at Pearkes Recreation Centre
 - Gorge Park First Nations historical project
- Part of the problem is we need more staff to oversee the jury process; there have been thoughts of passing the jury services through the CRD; they have done this service for Victoria in the past.
- However, it is better for the community if projects are vetted by our own people and our own artists because the projects undertaken by the City are different from Saanich, where we tend to focus on local artists – both established professional artists and those just starting out.

Councillor Derman asked that a report be prepared on projects outstanding; members of this committee may be able to contribute. Sharon Hvodanski agreed.

CRD Arts Funding

- Councillor Derman noted that Saanich contributes to this fund (\$832,547 in 2005, in addition to \$73,275 to the operation of the CRD Arts Manager's office).
- While it is important that Saanich contribute to regional arts programmes – there are some questions about the functionality of the programme.
- A large percentage of the funding is assigned to the Royal Theatre, the Art Gallery, the Victoria Symphony and the Victoria Operatic Society; there is very little awarded to new or smaller community events.
- The CRD is frozen in time – and there are also concerns about high administration and overhead costs.
- The same grants are given to the same groups each year: does Saanich get value for its money or is it that we are not getting the product we expected?
- It is expected that contributing \$1 million a year would help with development of community arts in our municipality – and yet we are unable to get any funding towards the Celebration of the Arts event.
- This is a topic that the ACH needs to discuss at a future date.

The Director of Recreation clarified the objective of the Community Arts Manager's position was to be a resource to all contributing communities; over the course of time, this has evolved into a different focus. Perhaps it is time to revisit the function and purpose of this position.

Noted that if the proposed relationship with the Saanich Legacy Foundation is successful, the SLF could approach the CRD Arts for funding contributions on an ongoing basis as they are at arms length from Saanich.

Community Theatre at Mt. Douglas High School

- Any further action on this issue has to come from the school and the school district.
- At one time, the school had a keen parents' group to follow through on this initiative.
- The Director of Recreation has met with the Principal and advised that the commitment from Saanich was similar to that offered to Claremont: if community access is provided to the theatre, we will contribute \$200,000. The theatre, however, would cost \$1 million+ to build.
- The new Royal Oak Middle School has just opened and through partnership with SD63, Saanich, for one tenth of the cost to build independently, has access to arts facilities, a double gym and a multi-purpose auditorium that has a sliding wall adjoining a sprung floor dance studio – this allows for a large performance studio with theatre capabilities, and room for spectators. This is a more practical solution rather than a “purpose built” theatre.
- Because this is a middle school there are very few issues with evening and weekend access for the community.

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre – Arts Facility

- Escalating construction means the work remaining will be phased in over the next few years. Phase 1 was the fitness centre; the washrooms are now completed.
- The Cedar Hill Gallery Café has been very well received and is heavily used.
- Phase 2 of the project is an additional arts wing; the announcement for three grant applications is pending.
- Some funding is available from Phase 1, so if the grants are unsuccessful, we can use this money to finish the parking lot (which continues to receive complaints) and the multi-purpose arts rooms will be refurbished and/or expanded. This work will be done whether or not the grants are successful.

CAREY ROAD DEVELOPMENT – Interpretive Signage

Councillor Derman suggested that the Planning department make notes about promises from developers to install heritage interpretive signs – such as at the Rainbow development, and now the Carey Road development.

- For the Rainbow development, it has been agreed to install 3 signs for the natural history of the area, the history of Christmas Hill and the European history of the area.
- During discussion of the Carey Road development, Council asked for interpretive signing to provide a history of the property, and the developer agreed.

LAND MARKS: A lecture series on public art

Reminder about the lecture in the Council Chambers on February 6, 2008, starting at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. Alan Storey will be speaking about technology, architecture and social space. He will provide an overview of making public art from the 1980's to present day.

BC HERITAGE WEEK – February 18 to 23, 2008

Sharon Hvosdanski stated this year we are hoping to have the first of many pedal bike tours of heritage sites. She distributed a draft of the brochure and route.

- The first tour will be through the Gorge neighbourhood because it is a compact area.
- The tour will start at the Craigflower School House or the Canoe and Kayak Club.
- Discussions have been held with Dennis Minnaker to try to modify one of his heritage walks and highlight not only buildings but other points of interest along the way.
- For those who want a shorter version of the tour, or are unable to participate, they could join the group at the selected venue for refreshments and an information session on the selected route.
- At this time final dates have not been decided – but the weekends of February 16/17 or 23/24 are being considered.
- The Canoe and Kayak Club is large enough to hold some of the heritage panels and Mr. Minnaker knows some Elders in the area who may be able to share stories.
- The completed brochure will be distributed as soon as possible and will be on line.

HERTIAGE BUS TOUR 2008

Discussion ensued regarding the 2008 Heritage Bus Tour, proposed route, venues, etc. One suggestion of visiting the Outerbridge Park property on Royal Oak Drive was not feasible at this time due to safety concerns, but it could be a possible site for future tours.

Parks are working with BARA and volunteers on the Outerbridge property as staff resources are limited. It is hoped it will be open soon for public access and tours. It is not unusual to have "Friends of ..." groups help with community projects (eg: Friends of Mt. Doug). Discussions have been held with the Union to make sure there are no issues.

Members were asked to think about ideas for the tour, which will be discussed fully at the March meeting when Carolyn Duncan, the archivist, can attend. Suggestions for the tour can be emailed in the meantime to Councillor Derman or Isobel Hoffmann.

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

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, FEBRUARY 28, 2008**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary