

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Hazel Bowman; Kathryn Bridge; Peggy Capek; Anne Lansdell
Staff: Ken Kreiger, Director of Recreation Services; Anna Haney, Special Events Coordinator, Recreation; Caroline Duncan, Archivist; Diane Thorpe, Community Arts Specialist; Jane Evans, Planner (9:30 am); Isobel Hoffmann, Senior Committee Clerk.
Regrets: Pauline Cohen; Sandra Gray; Valerie Green; Sharon Hallsor;
Minutes: Moved by K. Bridge and Seconded by P. Capek: "That the Minutes of the May 22, 2008 meeting be adopted."

CARRIED

HERITAGE WEBSITE PAGE – Jane Evans

- Ms. Evans circulated information re what is currently on the website regarding Heritage.
- Proposed additions include the Saanich Heritage Register, Saanich maps and posters and links to Saanich heritage connections – such as Fort Rod Hill, the Maltwood Art Museum, Victoria Hallmark Society. There will also be a link to the Saanich Archives.
- She has reviewed other municipal websites to get some ideas.
- The GIS system will be linked to Saanich Heritage Register.
- If anyone has any suggestions for the web page, please let her know as soon as possible.

Discussion noted the following suggestions:

- The Heritage Panels prepared for the Centennial could be displayed on the site.
- Navigation of the Saanich site is difficult and cumbersome; it needs to be cleaned up.
- Some good sites to view include Burnaby, Fort Langley, Revelstoke and Nelson.
- Perhaps a "welcome page" noting what information is available on Heritage.

Councillor Sanders entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS & CULTURAL FACILITIES – Ken Kreiger

Mr. Kreiger used display boards to identify the arts, culture and multi-use facilities currently available at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Colquitz, Gordon Head, and Royal Oak Middle Schools.

- Councillor Derman noted when the Cedar Hill Arts Centre was originally designed, we didn't have joint use agreements with these Schools.
- Saanich has invested substantial sums of money in both these schools in return for joint use agreements within the schools.
- It would be prudent to review and amend the plans for the Cedar Hill Arts Centre considering the additional space we now have available at the schools.

Mr. Kreiger stated:

- For a \$600,000 contribution to projects costing over \$15 million, Saanich has priority access to community spaces (including classroom space) within the three schools after school

hours, school holidays and weekends.

- The schools have to check with Saanich if they wish to hold a special function outside of normal school hours.
- According to the agreement, we have to pay for custodial service on weekends and Saanich is responsible for incremental costs – but this applies to recreation centres also.

Colquitz School

- Double gym with a fully sprung floor that can be used for special events; comes with a portable stage used for performances that can seat about 50 people.
- Access to the computer lab; art room; food and clothing lab; music rooms, recording and performance space; wood working shop.

Gordon Head

- Full use of the community space, the new double gym, art rooms, home economics and computer lab. All areas are wheelchair friendly.
- The old gym has been divided into two areas – drama and band rooms, which we have access to as well.

Royal Oak

- Again, we have full after school and weekend access to the double gym and home economics area, plus a 4,000 square foot “bonus room” with a moveable wall, a music room and arts room.
- There is a multi-purpose space with a sprung floor used for dance and drama performances and it can be changed into a performance venue to accommodate a few hundred people.
- By comparison, a theatre would cost several million dollars to build; multi-purpose areas are cheaper to build, have good sound and light and can be used for many other activities rather than just performances.

Cedar Hill Arts Facility

- Phase II was intended to have:
 - A refurbished flexi-hall with a moveable wall
 - A new gallery with a moveable glass wall and art exhibit space
 - Upgraded pottery, arts, ceramic and painting areas to create more space to meet the growing demand
 - Some multi-purpose rooms for visual and performing arts, rehearsal space
 - Expanded dance studio

Councillor Derman asked the Committee to think about the following for discussion in September:

- Are there gaps or duplications in the available spaces we have in the schools and the recreation centres?
 - Perhaps the original concept for the Cedar Hill Arts wing needs reconsideration?
- Noted that some of these issues are partially addressed in the Arts Strategy. Dianne Thorpe will speak to this at the next meeting.
 - We have great space capacity at the middle schools that we didn't have when the Arts Centre was originally planned.
 - While there is ample performance space, there is a lack of dedicated fine arts space.
 - The grant application for the Cedar Hill Arts Facility was turned down this year; perhaps we need to refocus and find an alternative grant that better fits the scope of the work.

- Although we must stay within in the original footprint of 3,000 to 4,000 sq.ft., programme space is flexible.
- Once the grant is secured, the architect and the stakeholders will discuss any changes.
- Noted storage space is an important consideration; while some space is provided at the schools and the centres, most of the spaces are multi-use so supplies cannot be left out from day to day. This could be addressed by having a dedicated fine arts facility.
- Hopefully the ACH can do some brainstorming at the September meeting.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- The original intent at Cedar Hill was to provide an “arts community”: it is important for artists to come together in this environment, and to be able to network on a daily basis.
- Schools offer evening and weekend programmes – they do not provide a dedicated arts space on a consistent basis.
- There are many venues for the performing arts compared to space for the visual arts.

PROPOSED CRD COMMUNITY ARTS MATCHING GRANTS – information distributed

Memo from Legislative Services attaching correspondence from the CRD Arts Committee regarding the proposed Matching Grants Programme; comments are requested by September 2, 2008.

Councillor Derman stated:

- There is on-going concern about the lack of funding from the CRD for community arts.
- Saanich makes a large contribution to the CRD Arts Programme – over \$1 million a year.
- Most of this is directed to regional and professional arts, particularly the performing arts.
- It is difficult for local artists to access funding due to many rules and restrictions.
- These issues have been raised by Councillor Sanders at the CRD.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- In response to the concerns raised about lack of funding for community arts, the CRD has made \$36,000 available, over three years, with a maximum grant of \$1500 per applicant. These funds are for the entire region.
- This is also a matching grant and therefore before getting CRD approval, the applicant(s) must obtain approval from their municipality to match the grant request.
- It seems to be a cumbersome process for a maximum grant amount of \$3,000.
- Saanich undoubtedly gets value for its money from the CRD Arts because the use of the venues funded is about 40% by Saanich residents – the issue is the lack of support for community arts.
- She asked the Committee to provide an opinion before September 2nd on whether they thought the proposed process would work.

Discussion noted:

- Diane Thorpe will ask the opinion of the artists involved in the Studio Tours.
- Agreed the mechanics of the grant process are cumbersome.
- After contributing over \$1 million, Saanich would be expected to match additional grants.
- An applicant would have to get approval from Saanich Council before going to the CRD.
- It would be a lengthy process and a lot of paperwork for a small amount.
- The proposed Terms of Reference are presented in such a way that almost no one would qualify. Why not list the organizations that are eligible rather than those ineligible?

- It is just one more level of bureaucracy to make things difficult.
- A review committee would have to be established at the local level for grant applications.
- The visual arts are not as organized as the performing arts.
- Perhaps Saanich should reduce its funding to the CRD and start its own fund in support of community arts.
- Suggested that Saanich artists should form an organization at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre with a small membership fee; they could apply for grants, host exhibits, etc. The area could be developed as a central gathering place for the visual arts, with enhanced display and studio spaces.

MOTION: **Moved by Ann Lansdale and Seconded by Hazel Bowman: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee finds the process outlined for the proposed CRD Community Matching Grants Programme very cumbersome and the Terms of Reference are too restrictive.”**

Carried.

Ted Harrison Murals

Anna Haney noted that the wall murals painted by Ted Harrison in his house were recently removed. Saanich should investigate acquiring one of the wall murals for display at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre, or at other venues.

ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE – Diane Thorpe (information was distributed)

- A draft of the Strategy will be available in September and it will include data from the on-line survey.
- She provided a list of the proposed Table of Contents and asked members to let her know if they thought anything was missing.
- She has included how the research was completed, community cultural mapping, community strengths, service delivery, possible gaps in services provided, community priorities, and a 5-year action plan.
- This summer she will be doing more research and writing the strategy, with the draft being presented to staff and the Committee in September, a final re-write in October and back to the Committee in November.

Councillor Derman noted the existing Arts Policy should be reviewed at the same time as the Arts & Culture Strategy Update. Amendments to the Policy have to be considered by Council.

HERITAGE BUS TOUR – SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

- Posters are drafted, just waiting for the on line registration course number.
- The rates for the bus rental have not increased as expected, so the ticket price can be kept at under \$30 again this year.
- With a price of \$27 per person, plus GST, people will get change from \$30, and this will cover the afternoon tea and entry to the Glendale Gardens.
- Valerie Green is working on the proposed route; she will drive it again to finalize the timing and see if the proposed routes are fully accessible by bus. Caroline will then review and a map and information on the stops will be prepared.
- Registration will start August 22, and posters will be distributed in July to the usual places.

PROPOSED ARTS & CULTURAL BROCHURE FOR SAANICH

Councillor Derman brought examples of the brochures prepared by the City of Victoria for their events throughout the year.

- He suggested this type of format is something Saanich should strive for, listing all the events happening in Saanich throughout the year.
- Sponsorship is key.
- With the redevelopment of Town & Country, now to be called Up Town, and the possibilities for an outdoor performance venue and “city centre” type of atmosphere, and with the sponsorship potential, there is no reason why a brochure of a similar format could not be a reality.
- We want to encourage people to stop in Saanich, not just drive through on the way to Victoria.

Committee members thought this was an excellent idea to pursue. Further discussion in September.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary