

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Peggy Capek, Pauline Cohen, Sandra Gray; Valerie Green,
Sharon Hallsor, Anne Lansdell
Guest: Paul McKivett, President, Saanich Legacy Foundation
Staff: Ken Kreiger, Director of Parks and Recreation, Anna Haney,
Special Events Coordinator, Diane Thorpe, Community Arts
Specialist, Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.

MINUTES

MOVED by S. Gray and seconded by A. Lansdell: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held October 2, 2008 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE

Copies of the draft document were circulated at the October 2 meeting and input requested:

- It is an excellent document and the summary is consistent with what the Committee has been aiming to do for some time.
- Page 13, when discussing gaps in services: the choice of the word "needed" has been used throughout; this implies it has been identified as a problem that needs to be solved, compared to a desire.

Dianne Thorpe explained the comments within the strategy were taken directly from the community engagement sessions and were direct quotes; she agreed with the committee's suggestion that if this is the case, then the comments should be put in quotation marks. In the summary, we can paraphrase and use other words, such as "desire" rather than "needed".

Referring to Goal 1 (to provide space for cultural and artistic activities)

- Objective A relates to the development of a Community Arts and Cultural Centre at Cedar Hill. The Committee had previously noted concerns about whether an arts and culture centre was necessary in lieu of the joint use of middle schools. It had been suggested that the Cedar Hill venue be for the visual arts only rather than the performing arts.

Referring to Goal 2 (to promote arts and culture awareness)

- Objective A relates to creating a communication plan (ie: website); suggested that the ACH may have an interest in reviewing the contents of the website. Although the current Saanich site is a good one, it does take some searching to find specific items. A new link to arts and cultural events in Saanich would be desirable.
- A member through "increase communication" is not a very specific action, but it was again noted this was just a comment from the public. Staff will develop the actual detailed strategy to improve communications after discussions with the stakeholders, and come up with an action plan.

- Agreed the ACH would review the three action tasks noted in Objective A as this forms part of their mandate.

Referring to Goal 4 (Nurture Healthy Vital Neighbourhoods)

- Objective A – the act of bringing communities together through celebrations is already happening – such as Music in the Park and RiverSong. SCAN should be included as one of the groups with responsibility over continued support of community cultural development.

Referring to Goal 6 (Support Economic Development)

- Objective A states *in order to raise the profile of arts and culture as an economic generator we should develop an aware recognition programme.* This should be applicable to businesses also. The City of Victoria is very active in this area and Saanich has the opportunity to look at how we could celebrate our artists. It is a very positive goal and demonstrates how many talented people we have in Saanich.
- Noted it would be a good opportunity to recognise some of these artists at the Gala Reception planned for the Fireside during Arts Celebration week.
- We have an environmental awards programme – it is only fair to have arts and cultural awards as well.
- Suggestions for recipients can come from this Committee as well as the general public. Perhaps we could partner with the Saanich News in the recognition project.
- We should look to see if other cities have similar programmes.
- The process has to be transparent.

Dianne Thorpe noted the final draft Strategy will be completed within the next few months. It will come back to this Committee in January prior to sending to Council for endorsement.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK CELEBRATIONS – Anna Haney

Sponsors to date:

- C-Fax; Island Parent; Saanich News; A-Channel; the Kiwanis Club.
- The event will be promoted on the Saanich website and the Active Living Guide.
- A new art group called “Kinda Sketchy” has asked to be involved.
- Glendale Gardens has a new director and he is interested in having an event at the gardens. Committee discussion noted the event could be expanded by having entertainment – such as a high school band 0 this would bring parents out to the event.
- Goward House will host a tea and art exhibit on April 21, 2009.
- The Scattered Artists group is interested in doing a display at Tillicum Mall on April 21 and 22, 2009; Peggy Capek is assisting with the project.
- Many other events have been proposed for the week, the intent being to bring art to the whole community, such as a Youth Coffee House on Friday April 18 at Pearkes; Adam Richards, the youth programmer, is looking into this.
- Garth Homer is planning an open house on April 23 showcasing art from the Artworks Programme – Suzanne Bassette is heading this project.
- There may be an art exhibit at Mayfair Mall from Studio 30.
- An artists’ reception is planned for the Fireside Grill on April 23 possibly between 5 pm and 7 pm. This will be a catered, gala-style event. Invitations will be sent and a small fee will be charged to cover the cost of the food. The Fireside requires a minimum of 100 people.

- Anna noted she still has a lot of work to do on this project, including a decision on who to invite. Artists from the studio tours taking place during May will set up art displays. She hopes to arrange for some professional entertainment also.
- Regarding the charged to cover the cost of the food. The Fireside requires a minimum of 100 people.
- Anna noted she still has a lot of work to do on this project, including a decision on who to invite. Artists from the studio tours taking place during May will set up art displays. She hopes to arrange for some professional entertainment also.

Regarding **the youth banner** project:

- She will meet with Dianne Thorpe next week. If we are going ahead with this project, we must start moving forward quickly, contact the school, estimate costs, secure a budget and arrange for a project manager. Lily Wallace was suggested as she worked on the Centennial project, but she is not retired. Anna will contact her.
- Anna stated this is a huge task, and is in addition to the other events proposed; it is not one she can manage by herself. The banners not only have to be designed and judged by April 25, but also produced eventually – and it could be costly depending on how many we print.
- We need to get a total estimate of the costs and there is no point proceeding if there are no funds to support the project.

General discussion noted:

- Pauline Cohen, Peggy Capek and Sharon Hallsor offered to assist with the banner project.
- Members agreed we need to involve not only the elementary schools but high schools and also agreed that we need to move forward quickly.
- For the artists' event at Cedar Hill, it was noted it is a lot of work for artists to set up and take down in the one day, especially when the event is only for a few hours. Perhaps it could be expanded to a two-day event and we could hire a security guard.

Anna will keep working on the various projects and bring further details back to the next meeting.

ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS

The Chair suggested that this issue be postponed and placed as the first item on the November Agenda; he suggested a tour of some of the facilities may be in order.

Mr. Kreiger stated he will bring a matrix showing all the available facilities, the size and capacity, the use and rental information. He has been waiting on information from the schools. He will also bring the floor plans for the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.

CHAIR'S PROGRESS REPORTS

Glendale Gardens Sculpture Park – nothing to report at this time.

Arts and Cultural Brochure for Saanich – nothing to report at this time.

CRD Community Matching Grants

- No response has been received to our letter; one is not expected until after the election is over. No firm decisions have been made yet but he believes the concept of the matching grant under the terms proposed has received very little support.
- The mandate to promote community arts has been lost as the CRD's focus is primarily on the "big five" professional arts (eg: Royal Theatres, Art Gallery, etc).

Paul McKivett stated given the programmes the Legacy Foundation supported last year, such as the Celebration of the Arts, Lime Light Youth Festival, Music in the Park, etc., we intend to approach the CRD again as we feel we meet the criteria, which is having a primary focus on community arts. Councillor Derman has agreed to write a letter of support.

Pauline Cohen stated she is positive that everyone who participated with the Celebration of the Arts would be happy to provide a letter of support for the Legacy Foundation.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sandra Gray announced that the annual joint Christmas party with the Heritage Foundation and the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee will be held at her house, 3808 Heritage Lane, on **Friday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.** It is requested that each committee contribute \$200 towards the event.

Moved by Ms. Cohen and Seconded by Ms. Gray: "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee contribute \$200 towards the annual joint Christmas Party for the Heritage Foundation and the Arts Culture and Heritage Committee."

Carried.

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

NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held November 27, 2008.

Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Tania Douglas, Committee Secretary