

MINUTES
ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009 AT 9:05 a.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: P. Capek; D. Christy; V. Green; S. Hallsor; A. Lansdell.
Staff: K. Kreiger, Director of Parks and Recreation; C. Duncan, Archives Supervisor; D. Thorpe, Community Arts Specialist; R. Phillips, Community Events Specialist; J. Evans, Research Planner and M. Brothers, Committee Clerk.
Regrets: P. Cohen.

MINUTES

Moved by P. Capek and Seconded by A. Lansdell, “That the minutes of the January 29, 2009 meeting be adopted as circulated”.

CARRIED

ARTS & CULTURAL FACILITIES AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS – CEDAR HILL RECREATION CENTRE RENOVATIONS

The Director of Parks and Recreation noted the following:

- Negotiations are underway with the original architect of the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre renovation project to review the costing and evaluate the design of the renovations with the original stakeholders.
- The architect should begin work in late spring or early summer in order to take advantage of current grant opportunities.

In response to questions from the committee, the Director of Parks and Recreation noted:

- It is advantageous to incorporate a “visual arts centre” in an existing facility, as a separate facility would require additional operating costs; of the existing recreation centres, Cedar Hill has the most complimentary programming for visual arts.
- The Terms of Reference for the architect’s review includes consultation with this committee.

HERITAGE WEEK/HERITAGE WEBSITE PRESENTATION

The Research Planner provided an overview of the new heritage website, located on Saanich’s homepage. Highlights included:

- The Arts, Heritage and Archives portal will be accessible from the “Visitors to Saanich” drop down menu and from a button link directly off the homepage; separate websites for each item are accessible from the portal.
- Most of the information on the heritage website was already available somewhere on Saanich’s webpage, but this website gathers it together in one location.
- The heritage website includes: pdf versions of the centennial heritage banners; the 2008 Saanich Heritage Register with informational brochure; the Heritage Management Plan; information on heritage designation and restoration grants; links to the Saanich Heritage Foundation and this committee’s webpage; and useful links to non-Saanich websites.
- Staff members are looking to update the information available under the Inventory of Heritage Markers, hopefully making it a complete listing of all markers in Saanich.

Committee discussion noted:

- A site map may provide some clarity on how to navigate the heritage website.
- It would be interesting to incorporate local legends such as those in regards to Christmas Hill, as well as information on the Saanich native bands.

- The heritage website could include links to previous heritage newspaper articles, particularly those by Valerie Green.
- Details could be provided on the houses used in the centennial heritage banners.

A member of the public noted that a link could be provided to Saanich's GPS mapping system, which lists heritage structures.

The Archives Supervisor noted:

- The main feature of the Archives website is the searchable photographic database, which includes dates and other available information for each photograph.
- Clips of the oral histories recorded by Archives will be available on the website, including the recent history provided by Hugh Curtis; bandwidth issues prevent Archives from putting up the complete recordings.
- Requests and inquiries are coming through the website not only from Saanich residents, but from across Canada and internationally as well.

The Chair noted:

- The entire Saanich website has extensive navigational issues which make it difficult to determine where to look for information; staff will be reviewing the website to address these issues.
- Staff could work with Saanich community associations to put together local area histories and provide these on the heritage website.
- Some information for the heritage website may be available through the British Columbia Orchard Industry Museum, as Saanich played an extensive role in early fruit production in British Columbia.
- Committee members are encouraged to explore the heritage website and send any comments or concerns to the Research Planner; it can be difficult for the person who develops a website to assess problems, especially in regards to navigation.
- The heritage website looks very nice, and congratulations are offered to the Research Planner, as well as to the Archives Supervisor for the Archives website.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARENESS WEEK 2009

The Community Arts Specialist provided a handout on the events planned for Community Arts Awareness Week 2009.

The Community Events Specialist reviewed the details on the Carnival of the Arts and noted:

- The carnival will be held in the Senior's Lounge this year as there will not be individual artists selling their work.
- There will be local performers, hands-on activities, demonstrations and opportunities for children to create a piece of take-home art.
- The leisure guide, in the new format, will be released to 54,000 households on March 11 and will prominently feature the carnival.

Committee discussion noted:

- A few tickets for the champagne reception could be given away on local radio in order to help promote the event.
- Since the carnival is a family-focused event, posters could be displayed in local schools and event information included in school newsletters.
- Consideration should be given to activities specifically geared to young children.
- Quilting and lace-making demonstrations could be included; wrought iron work and blacksmithing may also be of interest, particularly to boys.
- Industrial education departments at local schools may have demonstrations or completed pieces of work for display.

- Smaller stores in Hillside Mall are not being leased due to upcoming redevelopment and the administration is offering the spaces free for local organizations on a short term basis; Saanich could use these for displays of some kind.
- Performers from the Limelight festival could be featured at the carnival.

In response to committee discussion, the Community Events Specialist noted:

- The Community Arts Awareness Week information has been posted on the Saanich website.
- The revised community calendar will soon be available on the website; it will be searchable based on various criteria.

The Chair noted:

- The carnival is going to be used as a means of attracting children and youth towards involvement in arts; as this is a change of direction from past years, it will be important to “spread the word” and make the public aware.
- Consideration could be given to inviting chiefs from the Saanich native bands to the Champagne Reception.
- The Christmas Light-Up event held at the Municipal Hall last year was an excellent family-oriented event organized by the Community Event Specialist.
- It can be challenging to provide the right mix of hands-on activities and demonstrations for children.
- Glassblowing and stained-glass making could be considered for addition to the demonstration roster.
- Limelight festival participants could be invited to perform at Saanich Recreation centres and/or local malls.

HERITAGE BUS TOUR

The Archives Supervisor provided an update on plans from the subcommittee for the annual heritage bus tour and noted:

- The event will be held on Sunday September 27, 2009, with the 56 passenger bus leaving Pearkes Arena at 12:45 pm.
- Committee member Valerie Green will be providing information throughout the tour; a map will be produced so that attendees can follow along.
- As this is the 150th anniversary of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, the tour’s focus will be on Anglican churches and cemeteries.
- St. Luke’s has been approached to serve the tea as a fundraiser; there were concerns that the amount and quality of the food was inadequate last year.
- The other onsite visit may be at St. Michael’s All Angels.
- Registration will be provided through recreation centres and online, as was done last year, instead of through Legislative Services at the Municipal Hall.

ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Archives Supervisor circulated a copy of the recent archives newsletter and noted:

- The newsletter is produced every few months; the most recent edition includes information on the acquisition of over 1,000 photographic glass plates and negatives by local amateur photographer Annie Girling.
- The new facility was part of the reason for this recent acquisition, as the donor felt greater confidence that the material would receive proper care.
- The archives will be participating in the open house being held at the Pearkes Library this coming Sunday; a video camera will be set up to capture participants’ memories of Saanich.
- Though the grant proposal for display cabinets was not accepted, the archives were able to acquire some second-hand; a community mosaic has been installed between the cabinets and an exhibit designer will be putting together a display for the open house.

The committee commended the Archives Supervisor on the newsletter and noted that the webpage could have a field for email subscription.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary