

**MINUTES**  
**ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM #2**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009 AT 9:00 a.m.**

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

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**HERITAGE COMPONENT OF ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Chair discussed the current and future focus of the committee, noting:

- The existing committee is the result of the amalgamation of the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Community Arts Advisory Committee.
- Heritage designation is now the responsibility of the Saanich Heritage Foundation, while it is this committee's responsibility to publicize heritage in Saanich and to provide opportunities for the community to experience local heritage.
- To date, this committee has been more focused on the community arts element of the mandate than the heritage element.
- Previous members of the committee had experience in heritage issues and since have transferred to the Saanich Heritage Foundation.
- Canvassing will be undertaken to find a candidate with experience in heritage issues, preferably in regards to promotion; members should inform the Chair if they are aware of potential candidates.

**MINUTES**

**Moved by A. Lansdell and Seconded by P. Capek, "That the minutes of the November 27, 2008 meeting be adopted as circulated".**

**CARRIED**

**HERITAGE REVITALIZATION AND KIOSKS**

The Chair noted:

- The sign for Dodd House at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre was initiated to increase public awareness; some developers have been persuaded to incorporate plaques on buildings or sites with heritage significance.
- Consideration could be given to Saanich installing heritage kiosks, similar to those used on the TransCanada Trail and at Ogden Point; themes for kiosks could include celebrating First Nations, the Gorge Waterway in decline and the Gorge's revitalization.
- There is grant money available for a kiosk project through the province and interest has been expressed by local First Nations and the Land Conservancy; businesses could be approached to serve as sponsors.

A. Lansdell and V. Green Committee expressed interest in participating in the heritage kiosk project. Further committee discussion noted:

- The kiosk idea is an excellent one.
- Other candidates for kiosks include Lambrick Park, Cadboro Bay and Christmas Hill.

The Archives Supervisor also expressed support for the heritage kiosk project noting that it is strange that Saanich has not yet produced a commemorative structure for the First Nations, similar to those already installed by Oak Bay and Victoria.

### HERITAGE BUS TOUR 2009

The Archives Supervisor noted that planning should commence for the annual Heritage Bus Tour, which is typically held on a Saturday afternoon in September. A. Lansdell and V. Green expressed interest in participating in the planning subcommittee.

### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DRAFT THEME SCORECARD: 2009-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Director of Parks and Recreation summarized the Healthy Communities Scorecard and noted:

- Staff will implement two recommendations identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy, after it is adopted by Council.
- Two additional heritage walk/cycle brochures will be published in 2009.
- The popular regional Lime Light Youth Festival (formerly known as the Totally Teen Talent show) is an example of the initiative to explore and develop partnerships with other local agencies.
- Community infrastructure will be sustained through various projects including expanding “Community Space at Cordova Bay Elementary School and renovations at Gordon Head Recreation Centre.

### ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY

The Community Arts Specialist provided a review of current draft of the Arts and Culture Strategy, noting:

- This document has gone through a number of revisions; staff are attempting to create a document that is easy to read while incorporating all the comments received from the consultation sessions.
- Appendix 1 provides excellent background information on the methodology used to produce the strategy, while the other appendices will be available online.
- The Action Plan lays out objectives and identifies those responsible for specific actions.

The Chair noted:

- This committee has discussed issues arising from the existing Regional Arts funding program, to which Saanich contributes \$1 million annually, as it has provided significant support to professional arts and very little to community arts.
- The third item in the summary of official community plan policies should be revised to read, “encourage support for community level art through regional programs.”
- Overall, the strategy is excellent and a well put-together document.

In response to comments from the Chair, the Director of Parks and Recreation noted that any changes to policy statements in the Official Community Plan would need to be approved by Council, but the Chair and committee’s concerns regarding Regional Arts funding could be incorporated into the strategy elsewhere.

**MOTION: Moved by A. Lansdell and seconded by P. Capek, “That the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee endorse the Arts and Culture Strategy as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

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

The Director of Parks and Recreation distributed information on the facilities in local middle schools available for Saanich use/rental and noted:

- Saanich has undertaken partnerships with local middle schools in order to create multipurpose space available for municipal programming during evenings and weekends without rental fees; Royal Oak and Gordon Head are two middle schools which have partnered with Saanich for this purpose.

- As the renovation for Cedar Hill Recreation Centre was planned prior to the partnerships which produced the additional multipurpose space, it may be necessary to reconsider the amount of multipurpose space provided in the renovations.
- Phase I of the renovations included updating the fitness centre, washrooms, and the parking lot; the gallery display space at the café was also created at that time.
- The current plans for Phase II of the renovation include: relocating and expanding the pottery studio; installing hinged and glazed doors which can be turned to create either exhibition space or program space as needed; increased multipurpose space for programming and rehearsal use; and an outdoor landscaped children's area and potter's court.
- Studio space which was originally planned to be incorporated at the recreation centre was instead located at Saanich Commonwealth Place.
- Originally, the cost for Phase II of the renovations was estimated to be \$3.2 million, but even with the recent decrease in construction the actual cost is more likely to be approximately \$4 million; however, the new grants available through the federal budget may offset the cost if the renovations qualify.
- The physical limits of the site need to be taken into account for any renovations.
- A study on theatre space in Saanich indicated that creating a major theatre space would be costly and unnecessary given the proximity to City of Victoria; the study also indicated that it was more critical to provide space for teaching performing arts and for rehearsal.

The Chair noted:

- Instead of duplicating the multipurpose space now available at local middle school, the renovations could be an opportunity to make Cedar Hill Recreation into a centre for the visual arts.
- Facilities for electronic arts could be incorporated at Cedar Hill, in addition to space for traditional visual arts such as sculpture, painting and pottery.
- Currently, there is not a lot of dedicated space available for visual artists to create, receive instruction, meet, and display their work.
- A visual arts centre at Cedar Hill could end up serving not just Saanich, but the region as well.

Committee discussion noted:

- Before the multipurpose space is removed from the Phase II of renovations, consideration needs to be given to how well the existing theatres are serving the community's needs.
- Storage is always an issue for theatre and is also of concern to the visual arts.
- The Gallery Café display space needs to be booked a year in advance, which indicates the level of need for that kind of space.
- It is always challenging to store or rent display boards; it would be of assistance to community level artists if Saanich considered providing a rental program for the boards.

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

- Though the Ridge Theatre at Spectrum School can be more expensive to rent than many groups anticipate, and while it can be challenging to integrate school programming and public use; this theatre is nonetheless popular and well-used.
- The original stakeholders who provided input into the renovations will be canvassed to see if the design is still relevant.
- Renovations requiring significant changes to the overall building structure are not within the scope of this project.

In response to committee discussion, the Chair stated that he will work with staff to see that a new concept for the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre renovations is produced for review by the stakeholders, which will then be brought back the committee for further consideration.

In response to committee discussion, the Archives Supervisor noted that staff applied for grant to purchase cases for a permanent artifact display at the Pearkes library; the grant was not received, but the idea is still being considered.

### **COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK 2009**

The Chair reviewed the history of Community Arts Week included the challenges faced and the changes implemented in the past few years.

It was the consensus of the committee that the list of invitees be circulated for review.

The Community Arts Specialist detailed a list of the events planned for Community Arts Week and noted:

- Staff applied for a \$10,000 grant to assist in funding Community Arts Week and will receive notification if the application has been approved in February.
- The displays have already been booked but there are still some performers to be confirmed.
- Several schools have confirmed their participation in the banner project; once the proposed designs are submitted, the Chair and committee members will need to help determine the short list of designs.

A. Lansdell and P. Capek expressed interest in assisting with the Champagne Reception during Community Arts Week.

P. Capek expressed interest in participating in the banner selection process. Details of the date for reviewing the banner designs will be circulated electronically.

### **HERITAGE WEEK**

The Research Planner distributed copies of a draft Saanich heritage website and noted:

- Heritage Week begins on February 16 and to celebrate Saanich will have an expanded page on heritage added to the public website.
- Information on arts was provided by the Community Arts Specialist.
- There will be links to basic background information such as heritage policy, documents, and the panels produced in the centennial year.
- It would be ideal to include information on heritage markers and gardens in Saanich, and also to provide some recognition to owners of heritage structures who have made significant restoration/preservation efforts.

The Archives Supervisor noted:

- There has been some notable archaeological work done locally, through Camosun College and other institutions.
- The profile of the existing Saanich Archives website should be raised, especially considering the new searchable heritage photograph database.

In response to questions from the committee, the Research Planner noted that a few heritage panels could be displayed at the Municipal Hall and the Saanich recreation centres, but that no facility would be able to accommodate all the panels at once.

The Chair suggested that a local mall might be interested in displaying all the banners during Heritage Week.

### **CHAIR'S PROGRESS REPORTS**

**Glendale Gardens Sculpture Park** – As Glendale Gardens has a new CEO, the discussion process will need to begin again.

**Arts and Cultural Brochure for Saanich** – Saanich’s community events are mentioned in a brochure by the City of Victoria; a similar brochure for Saanich exclusively would be preferred.

**CRD Community Matching Grants** – Other municipalities have expressed similar concerns regarding the regional granting program. There has been some turnover on the regional committee as the previous Chair was not re-elected and a new municipality has become a member. Despite significant in financial contributions, the votes are not “weighted” differently.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

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

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Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary