

MINUTES
ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009 AT 9:00 a.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: P. Capek; D. Christy; P. Cohen; K. Johnson; S. Hallsor; A. Lansdell.
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: V. Green

MINUTES

Moved by A. Lansdell and Seconded by P. Capek, "That the minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair reviewed recent changes to the Celebration of the Arts Opening Reception noting:

- Funding issues and scheduling concerns required that the opening reception for the Celebration of the Arts Week be held at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre instead of the Fireside Grill.

S. Hallsor entered the meeting at 9:08 am

- Staff had made a grant application and should have received a response by February of this year; there has been no response to the application yet, and the cost for using the Fireside Grill as the reception site would wipe out all the funds currently available.
- The decision to change venues needed to be made quickly, as the Fireside Grill was keeping the space available for the reception and the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre needed to be booked as an alternative.
- There were some advantages to changing the venue of the reception; the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre will allow a larger number of attendees and is available on Friday evening, which is a preferable time slot than the one booked at the Fireside.
- It has been challenging to acquire sponsors for this event, as this is the first year the event has been held.

Committee discussion noted:

- This significant change in the plans for the reception is problematic; consideration needs to be given to how decisions are made outside of committee meetings when they impact work being done by the committee.
- If members were aware how vital the grant would be for the reception budget, a different decision might have been made in venue from the outset.

In response to committee discussion the Chair noted:

- This committee decided last year that the reception would be primarily run by staff with members providing advice and assistance where possible.
- The change of venue unfortunately had to be accomplished quickly in order to secure a venue that would not wipe out the available funds.
- As the reception is a new event, the roles and responsibilities for its planning have been in flux; it may be necessary to clarify the exact role of different members and the committee in general in regards to the planning process for the reception.
- If a similar situation arises between committee meetings in the future, an email will be sent to committee members; apologies are offered for the communication issues regarding the change in venue.

In regards to other previous discussion items, the Chair noted:

- The new director of the Glendale Gardens/Horticultural Centre has expressed interest in the sculpture park concept, though further meetings will be required before any actions are taken.
- Developers have been encouraged on a case by case basis to install plaques to commemorate when buildings with heritage significance are removed; the committee could consider recommending a policy to Council that would require these plaques where appropriate.

A. Lansdell, D. Christy and J. George all expressed interest in joining a subcommittee to create heritage kiosks along the Gorge Waterway.

In response to questions from the committee, the Chair noted:

- The final reading has been given for the redevelopment project on the site of the Royal Oak School House; the school house building will be relocated on the property to serve as an office.
- It is primarily the Saanich Heritage Foundation's role to advocate for specific heritage structures.

PUBLIC ART JURY PROJECTS

The Research Planner provided an overview of 2 public art projects that are progressing to the jurying phase and noted:

- A percentage of funds from redevelopments are put aside for public art; at this time, public art projects funded in this manner are being planned for the Gorge Waterway and for the Gordon Head Recreation Centre.

K. Johnson entered the meeting at 9:20 am

- Both juries are comprised of arts representatives and representatives from the local community.

The Chair noted:

- Consideration could be given by the committee to reviewing the Comprehensive Art Policy in regards to the composition of public art juries.
- The Gorge is of great significant to local First Nations and consideration should be given to incorporating their experience into the public art project in that location.
- Youth and sports could be incorporated into the theme for the Gordon Head Recreation Centre project, or just recreation in general.

In response to committee discussion, the Research Planner noted:

- Staff members have contacted local First Nations and not received any interested response on the Gorge public art project to date.
- The Gorge public art project will be located north west of the Gorge bridge on the trail near the Canoe Club.
- The juries for both projects will come up with two themes for potential public art pieces.

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

- Originally, public art juries were intended to select pieces based on artistic merit alone.
- After some pieces selected were not well received, the jury composition was amended to include a member of the community in which the public art project would be located and a staff member familiar with the location.

Committee discussion noted:

- It is critical that whatever project is selected will be able to be maintained and remain in a state that will be enjoyable for years to come; the “Stone Poems” in Rutledge Park are no longer legible, despite several attempts at upkeep.
- For the Gordon Head Recreation Centre public art project, consideration could be given to having a theme on human movement or the human body; this would address both recreation and the historical farming in Gordon Head.

NOMINATION FOR HERITAGE AWARDS

The Research Planner noted:

- The new Saanich Heritage webpage has been nominated for the BC Heritage Branch Advocacy Award; the *Saanich Heritage Structures* publication has also been nominated for the Hallmark Award.
- The awards will be given out on May 5th at St. Ann's Academy.
- The committee's suggestions for the website from the February meeting have been incorporated where possible.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARENESS WEEK 2009

The Community Arts Specialist provided a handout on the events planned for Community Arts Awareness Week 2009 and noted:

- Three artists from each studio tour have been invited to display at the Saanich Studio Tour Exhibition in the Gallery Café.
- There are two performers already booked for the Celebration of the Arts Opening Reception and staff members are looking for one more.
- At the reception, the Saanich banner projects finalists will be displayed and the winners announced.

The Chair noted:

- As a venue, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre has more space available which will allow for more attendees and less restriction on performers.
- There will still be a silent auction held at the reception and items not purchased that night can be made available at the Carnival of the Arts the following day.
- It was decided that advertising funds would be spent towards the Active Living Guide insert rather than on brochures, which were not used in sufficient numbers last year.
- The carnival will be an excellent event for families; attendees will have the opportunity to donate and receive a raffle ticket for a gift basket.
- The refreshments for the reception will be similar to those provided for the Limelight youth festival.
- Studio tours are not typically family oriented events; each tour has been responsible for advertising in the past.

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

- Members are welcome to drop off silent auction items up to the afternoon of the reception
- In addition to the silent auction, studio tours artists will be able to display their work.
- Assistance with the silent auction and reception decorations would be most helpful.
- Staff will produce a small rack card with the dates and contact information for the studio tours.

Committee members A. Lansdell and P. Capek expressed interest in assisting staff with the Celebration of the Arts Opening Reception.

COMMUNITY BANNERS PROJECT

The Community Arts Specialist noted:

- With the assistance of the Chair and other committee members, 24 banner designs were short-listed for display and voting at Saanich recreation centres and libraries.

- At the end of March, the two designs which received the most votes will be selected for reproduction as banners and the six runners-up will be included on the bookmarks to be produced in the fall.
- Black plinths will be used to unveil and display the 8 final banner designs at the Carnival of the Arts.

The Chair noted:

- Discussions will be held with the Mayor and Administrator to determine if sponsorship could be considered as a means to increase the number of banners in use; the question of sponsorship may also need to be sent to Council for approval as well.
- The name of sponsors would be discreetly noted on the "tail" of the banner.
- The reproduction cost decreases per banner if larger orders are placed.

CEDAR HILL RECREATION CENTRE RENOVATIONS

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an update on the review of the renovation design for the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and noted:

- It has just been confirmed with the architect that the original stakeholders who provided input on the arts centre at Cedar Hill will be contacted through focus groups, in addition to any new arts organizations that would be appropriate.
- The findings from the focus groups will be compiled for review and feedback at public open houses.
- Committee members can participate in the process through the stakeholder meetings and the open houses; the findings report will be brought to this committee for review and comment, prior to being sent to Council for approval.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Research Planner be asked to provide an update on the heritage walks project at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting will be held on April 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary