

MINUTES
ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM #2
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009 AT 9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

Moved by V. Green and Seconded by P. Capek, "That the minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED

HALLMARK SOCIETY HERITAGE AWARD

The Chair noted:

- Saanich received an award from the Hallmark Society for the recently published Heritage Register, the total sales of which has reached \$8,000.
- Thanks are offered to committee member K. Johnson for nominating Saanich.
- It was a wonderful opportunity to receive this award on Saanich's behalf, along with Saanich Heritage Foundation member B. Shuya; staff member J. Evans was also present.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PROGRESS REPORT 2008

The Director of Parks and Recreation reviewed the Healthy Community Theme and noted:

- The indicators for the progress report were selected in part due to their compatibility with existing measurements tools, such as the Citizen Survey.
- All annual indicators showed a positive increase in 2008 but the long-range indicators showed some problematic trends due to the economic downturn, including an increase in the number of households paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

S. Hallsor entered the meeting at 9:10 am

- Active aging is a major focus in this theme that has been addressed through infrastructure, recreation programming and public awareness; intergenerational programming at schools and recreation centres has been particularly successful.
- There are 3 initiatives addressing affordable housing in the 2009 Strategic Plan.
- The Gordon Head Recreation Centre renovation/expansion is going to tender soon, for completion in February 2010; the second phase of the construction for the Cordova Bay Elementary School/Seniors Centre should be completed this year.
- Acquiring and retaining volunteers remains a challenge and requires staff focus.

Committee discussion noted:

- Clarification is needed whether the price of the Heritage Bus Tour tickets includes GST.
- As a means of increasing volunteer retention, consideration could be given to charging for the training received by emergency program volunteers, who would then be reimbursed after a certain number of service hours.

In response to committee discussion, the Chair noted:

- The Music in the Park Program remains active, through the efforts of Saanich staff and M. Bachman – a volunteer from the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association.
- Organizers for the Music in the Park event at Rutledge will be encouraged to apply for funding, similar to that received by the Gorge Tillicum Community Association for the Canada Day Gorge Picnic.

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

- The price for drop-in use of recreation centres will continue to include GST, but registered program prices are now GST exempt.
- The Music in the Park event at Rutledge is greater in scale than similar events, which may be why funding has become a challenge; the committee could consider providing a letter of reference for the event organizers to use in their grant applications.

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARENESS WEEK – REPORT AND BUDGET

The Chair noted:

- Overall, Community Arts Awareness Week was very successful; thanks are offered both to the committee for their efforts and to staff, especially the Special Events Coordinator and the Community Arts Specialist.
- The Carnival of the Arts was very successful, with attendance estimated at 1,700; now that the event has a good reputation, it will be easier to acquire sponsorship next year.
- Though well planned and executed, the Opening Reception had only 60 to 80 people in attendance; the Cedar Hill Golf Course clubhouse might have been a better location than the recreation centre for the reception.

The Community Arts Specialist noted:

- Attendance estimations were provided by the studio art tours; artists mentioned that increasing the number of tours in the region has resulted in “competition” for attendees.
- The banner finalists and design winners were displayed at the municipal hall; the focus in this project now turns to the production of the banners and bookmarks.

Committee discussion noted:

- It is best to review an event as soon as possible after it is held, while it is easy to recall.
- Though the carnival was a success this year, it is important to consider ideas for the future to keep it fresh and interesting.
- Some hallways at the recreation centre seemed extremely crowded during the carnival, especially when strollers were present.

It was the consensus of the committee that a detailed review of the Opening Reception and Carnival, including the budget, be held at the next meeting.

In response to committee discussion, the Community Arts Specialist noted that there were very specific items for which the grant could be used, which had an impact on the budget.

In response to committee discussion, the Chair noted:

- Though the grant was received late, it may still be available for next year’s event.
- The banner project provided a wonderful opportunity to feature student art.
- The excellent decorations added a special touch to the carnival, especially the balloons.
- A small subcommittee was formed specifically to apply for the grant; it included Councillor Derman, Councillor Sanders, S. Hallsor and past Saanich Councillor C. Pickup.
- The banner project operated somewhat independently from Community Arts Awareness Week and received funding from the Saanich Legacy Foundation.

DEVELOPMENT OF SAANICH HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

The Research Planner circulated a map of Saanich heritage properties, grouped into potential walking tours, and noted:

- The departmental plan allows for staff time to complete one walking tour this year.
- The Manager of Saanich Commonwealth Place has requested that consideration be given to starting a walking tour from the facility; though there are not a significant number of heritage properties in the area, the natural environment could make for a pleasant walk.
- Members are encouraged to offer their comments and questions on potential walking tours to staff.

Committee discussion noted:

- It would be interesting to know whether the users are looking for a pleasant walk or for historical information on a Saanich walking tour.
- Consideration could be given to rating the walking tours to indicate the level of physical effort required by participants; the Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association could provide volunteers to review the proposed walking tour with the Research Planner.
- Vocal and/or pictorial guides for the walking tours could be produced in an electronic format and be available for download from the municipal website.

In response to committee discussion, the Director of Parks and Recreation noted that heritage walking tours could be included in the Active Saanich Guide, if a volunteer expressed interested in serving as a leader.

In response to committee discussion, the Research Planner noted:

- Toronto has developed a touring system where users can phone in and acquire heritage information once they are located at a site of interest.
- It would be wonderful to be able to incorporate the oral histories acquired by the Archives into the walking tours.

HERITAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Chair noted:

- The first meeting of the new heritage subcommittee was held last week; topics of discussion included heritage kiosks and awards.
- Individual kiosks would likely cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 each, making private sponsorship for the project a good option.
- Once the subcommittee has a more detailed concept for the kiosks, it will need to be submitted to Council for approval, after this committee has provided feedback.
- In discussions held with local First Nations, the chiefs expressed support for the kiosk project.
- The kiosks are meant to bring heritage out to the community, making them an excellent fit with the walking tours.
- The heritage awards could include long-term service, developer and youth categories; award presentations would be made during Heritage Week.
- The subcommittee also proposed that similar awards could be presented to members of the local arts community during Community Arts Awareness Week.

The Director of Parks and Recreation noted that there are other significant projects proposed for the Gorge Waterway in the near future; the heritage subcommittee may want to consider working with all stakeholders towards a concept plan which compliments these other projects.

STATUS REPORT – CEDAR HILL ARTS EXPANSION

The Chair noted:

- All three stakeholder engagement sessions have been held to discuss the proposed arts expansion to the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.
- During the sessions, a proposal was made to incorporate street art near the trail connecting to the centre; this could create an interesting transition from the outdoor space to the indoor space.
- There seemed to be a consensus that the intention of the expansion should be to create at Cedar Hill a centre of visual art for the use of community artists.

The Director of Parks and Recreation noted that the architect indicated it might be possible to bring a concept for the expansion to the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting will be held on June 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary