

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 21, 2013

4:00pm – 5:30pm Committee Room 1, 3rd Floor St. Catharines City Hall

Present: Lesley Bell (Chair), Marcie Bronson, Sandra Merk, Peter Vietgen
Absent: Councillor Mark Elliott, Michael Zuberec
Staff: Rebecca Cann, Emma German, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday November 21, 2013.

Moved: P. Vietgen **Seconded:** S. Merk **Approved.**

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday September 19, 2013.

Moved: S. Merk **Seconded:** P. Vietgen **Approved.**

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Community Public Art Initiatives

a. Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial

R. Cann thanked those that assisted in the creation of the design selection panel; they have had their first meeting. The Call for Expressions of Interest has been released and the deadline to respond is January 15, 2014. At their meeting on November 18, City Council endorsed the submission of a grant application for the project. They also agreed, in principal, to take ownership of, and care for, the memorial for at least 10 years. Staff will continue to work with the Welland Canal Memorial Task Force on selecting a site and commissioning a design for the memorial. The next report to Council will be in regards to final site selection as a site has not yet been finalized. Several are still being reviewed.

6. Public Art Initiatives

a. Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre Public Art

R. Cann reported that City staff members have been discussing the projects and there is a real interest in seeing public art near or in the arts centre since it is the first arts facility to be developed by the municipality. She shared with the group a draft design for the lower level parking lot planned near the

Meridian Centre. S. Ritchie explained the plan and use of the area. Staff members in a variety of departments have been discussing how to integrate public art into the area and how to fund a public art project here, as well as for the PAC, since PAAC's original recommendation to merge the two budgets into one project was based on the modest nature of each budget. Options to address this concern were discussed and staff will follow up with potential opportunities to increase the funds available for the two projects. The opening on St. Paul Street to the stairway, the stairwell itself and the lower end of it have all been suggested as an interesting opportunity for public art. The group discussed the possibilities for public art here and noted that art could transform what is currently a slightly spooky stairway with a very plain entry point in downtown. Discussion took place on how PAAC would like to go about developing selection panels for the two projects and they decided that the committee as a whole could form both selection panels with the addition of invited individuals who represent downtown business and the arts centre. Names were suggested and R. Cann will contact them to invite them to participate on the selection panels. Committee meetings will rotate bi-monthly with Selection Panel meetings.

Motion: To form selection panels for both the Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre public art projects with Public Art Advisory Committee members and identified community members. The panels will also include staff from Planning & Development Services and Recreation & Community Services as appropriate.

Moved: S. Merk **Seconded:** P. Vietgen **Approved.**

b. City Hall Exhibits

i. Fabric/ation

J. Tupling reported that the Call to Artists is out. It was shared via social media with great response. Marketing for the call will continue.

ii. City Hall Renovations

R. Cann reported that the development of a new customer services division at the City is resulting in significant renovations at City Hall. Plans indicate that space will be lost in the 2nd floor gallery area, and exhibits will now be limited to the one long set of walls. Staff is ensuring that artwork is safe during the renovations and is now evaluating future permanent display opportunities. The group discussed the importance of community access to the City's art collection and exhibit program. They value how the work in the public spaces at City Hall allows people to easily discover art while doing business at the City.

iii. City Council Gallery

R. Cann reported on the issues of quality and consistency amongst the photos since they were produced over a fifty year period. E. German explained the measures required to ensure related

information is accurate. The project will be completed in the New Year, to coincide with completion of the renovations.

7. PAAC Presentation to City Council

The Committee discussed plans for the December 16, 2013 City Council presentation by S. Merk and P. Vietgen. They will update Council on the committee's work this year and share the newest acquisition. R. Cann reported that the draft Terms of Reference for the Public Art Advisory Committee will go to Council for approval at the December 2, 2013 meeting.

Action: Staff will invite the artist of the acquired work to attend.

8. Art Collection

a. Johansson's Bar

L. Bell shared the recent research that has taken place. It appears that the Bar was installed as a thank you to Walker Industries for their in-kind donation to the Merritt Trail. The Welland Canal Preservation Society had done some work displaying artifacts along the trail, such as the propeller at the entrance of the Knifeworks. With help from the Museum the relevant era of minutes from the Welland Canal Preservation Society have been found and reviewed and former members are being contacted for more information. It is very possible that the plaque is inaccurate –much of the information on it has not yet been verified.

b. Collections Update

R. Cann reported that the accessibility ramps and landscape work has been completed on the St. Catharines Cenotaph. The final step is to remove the bronze medallions to be cleaned over the winter. The report on the other City-owned bronze sculptures is awaiting information on the mortar repair requirements.

c. Twinning Artwork Donation

The committee was asked to complete the rating system via email for submission prior to the next meeting.

Action: Staff will send out the digital rating system to PAAC members for completion before the January meeting.

9. Development of Public Art Procurement Process

Deferred.

10. Reports

a. Culture Committee – P. Vietgen

P. Vietgen reported that Culture Committee discussed the Festivals and Events Grant program that will be evaluated by the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) Subcommittee. They are reviewing the final draft of the Culture Plan. The Arts Awards Committee has confirmed several sponsorships for the awards, which take place on Saturday May 3, 2014 at

Rodman Hall Art Centre.

b. Arts Awards Design Task Force – L. Bell

The Task Force had their first meeting and examined examples of other awards, mainly medals. The award is to represent the recipients as well as the event and there are various issues with multi-produced and/or hand-created awards. The award will not be ready for 2014, so the aim is to unveil it as part of the awards when they move into the Performing Arts Centre.

c. Joint Mural Task Force – S. Merk

No report.

d. Cultural Services – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program is wrapping up; two new marketing pieces have been created to promote St. Catharines musical groups and performances for families, and cNiagara is featured in all; the 2014 City Guide and the next Leisure Guide are in development; and the City of St. Catharines has been pre-approved to submit an application to host an upcoming Creative City Network of Canada Summit.

11. Other Business

R. Cann distributed City Volunteer Training Modules to the committee members. All volunteers are required to review the material as part of the Province's accessibility legislation and complete the final page in the module.

Action: PAAC members to return check sheets to staff by December 13, 2013.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of Thursday November 21, 2013.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:25 pm

Next Meeting: Selection Panel/s Meeting: Thursday December 19, 2013 – 4:00pm, Ante Room, City Hall