

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 20, 2014

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

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday February 20, 2014.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday November 21, 2013, with some minor edits.

Moved: M. Zuberec **Seconded:** P. Vietgen **Approved.**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

The presentation to Council on December 16, 2013 by S. Merk and P. Vietgen went well. Artist Danny Custodio was in attendance and his work was well received by Council. R. Cann reported that the Public Art Advisory Committee's terms of reference were approved by Council.

4. Correspondence

The City of St. Catharines has sent a letter seeking nominations for the annual volunteer recognition night. The committee discussed the possible nominees and decided to not submit a nomination this year. They will consider nominations next year.

5. Community Public Art Initiatives

a. Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial

R. Cann reported that the Welland Canal Fallen Workers memorial committee has approved the design selection panel's recommended shortlist of artists. She shared a presentation of the artists and their work. The next steps of the project include: informing the artists, creating an RFP for distribution, and reporting to Council on site selection. Site selection process must be finalized before the design process can move forward. The shortlisted artists will be announced in the near future.

6. Public Art Initiatives

a. Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre Public Art

R. Cann explained that moving forward every other Public Art Advisory Committee meeting would be used to focus on the projects. S. Ritchie shared the most recent drawings of plans for the lower level area surrounding the Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre. He talked about possible areas for public art and how spaces will be used. One area that has been identified as a possible site for public art is the stairway from 131 St. Paul St. that connects the lower level to St. Paul Street. The committee discussed this space and the benefits of utilizing it for public art. R. Cann talked about possible connections with the Green Committee and the Downtown Association.

Motion: To move the Meridian Centre public art project forward with the stairway identified by staff (Old Tannery Road) as the site, using the full \$50,000 budget allocation as the minimum budget.

Moved: M. Zuberec **Seconded:** S. Merk **Approved.**

b. City Hall Exhibits

i. Fabric/ation – Set jury

The deadline for submissions is Friday March 7 and a jury will be required to select the works for the show in the 10 days that follow. Members of the committee volunteered to sit on the jury. Staff will make an inquiry for the City staff representative. L. Bell made a suggestion for a community jury member; she will contact her and inquire.

Action: A date of March 19, 2014 was confirmed and staff will make arrangements for the jury with updates via email.

ii. City Hall Renovations

R. Cann reported that the renovations are delayed, affecting installations of the Council Gallery on the 3rd floor.

iii. City Council Gallery

R. Cann reported that the images are all framed and ready for when the renovation is completed. One change will be needed to the images as the latest Council picture will have to be edited to reflect the change the departure of Councillor Washuta and the addition of Councillor Ip.

7. Art Collection

a. Johansson's Bar

There is still no new information on the origins or significance of Johansson's Bar. A couple more avenues of research are being investigated. There is a good possibility that the object could be removed from the collection and the park if no connection to St. Catharines' heritage is revealed. With spring

approaching the Green Committee is seeking a final decision so that the project can move forward.

b. Collections Update

R. Cann reported that staff is looking at permanent locations for artwork at City Hall after all the renovations and office moves are completed.

c. Twinning Artwork Donation

The committee reviewed the final results from the rating system scores that they completed in 2014. One score is still missing and will be provided before the next meeting. A motion will be presented at the next meeting for Committee vote.

Action: Committee members to provide score, where required. Staff will draft motion for Committee consideration at April's meeting.

8. Development of Public Art Procurement Process

Deferred.

9. Reports

a. Culture Committee

P. Vietgen reported that the Culture Committee approved the Festival and Events grant recommendations at their last meeting, for Council's consideration. The subcommittees provided reports to the committee. The Arts Awards subcommittee are talking about different options for the awards in the future including making it a bi-annual award and creating a lifetime achievement award that would be presented every 4 years.

b. Arts Awards Design Task Force

P. Vietgen reported that the group reviewed a draft call for design at their last meeting and provided feedback. They looked at the timeline for the awards development which may change to a 2016 deadline, allowing the new design to coincide with the Performing Arts Centre opening.

c. Joint Mural Task Force

No report.

d. Cultural Services

R. Cann reported that the City has adopted a commission structure that will result in some re-structuring in the corporation. She explained how these changes will affect the cultural services office and the Recreation and Community Services Department. There are improvements taking place on the City's website to assist with the work of the new Citizens First initiative. Staff has been working on a new format for the Leisure Guide; she asked that the committee provide feedback when it is released. She also announced that nominations are closed for the arts awards with more than 30 nominations

received, the most in the awards' history.

10. Other Business

R. Cann shared with the committee the loss of local artist and cultural supporter Tobey C. Anderson. She discussed the profound mark that he has made on the arts of St. Catharines and noted that there is currently none of Tobey's work in the Civic Art Collection. She asked the committee to consider if they would like to recognize Tobey in any way and/or consider a future possible purchase of one of his works.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of Thursday February 20, 2014.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:28 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday March 20, 2014 (Downtown Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre Public Art)