

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 17, 2014

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Committee Room, 3rd Floor St. Catharines City Hall

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday April 17, 2014.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday March 20, 2014.

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

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Correspondence

None.

5. Guest: Barbara Black, with regard to a potential donation of public art at the Performing Arts Centre

Barbara Black outlined a proposal to donate a bronze work of public art for the Performing Arts Centre that would honour Chuck Smith of the Wise Guys Charity Fund. Fundraising would be required to make the project happen. The work is designed by Bradley Black, who was unable to attend. B. Black distributed Bradley's resume for the Committee's information.

The artwork has been designed to be sited in the front lobby of the Performing Arts Centre. Previous conversations with R. Cann identified a couple of issues with this site, specifically the limited space within the lobby, and the potential conflict with the current fundraising campaign for the arts centre. The group reviewed possible other sites in the vicinity and the implication of certain sites with regard to maintenance and visual impact. B. Black explained that fundraising will be for the fabrication and installation of the work, not for lighting or landscaping. Sites discussed included the terrace at the bottom of the stairs from St. Paul St that are the planned site for the Meridian Centre public art call; the

parkland triangle on Race Street, and in front and behind the PAC site. B. Black noted the Race St. site was of interest to her.

After B. Black's departure the committee asked if an investment into a maintenance fund had been considered, ie such as 10% of the project's budget which is standard in other municipalities. They discussed the design concept further and how it related to the Performing Arts Centre, the community and the site. M. Bronson offered to assist R. Cann with communications related to the project.

Action: R. Cann will continue the conversation with Barbara Black with assistance from M. Bronson.

6. Community Public Art Initiatives

a. Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial

R. Cann reported that the Request for Proposal for shortlisted artists is almost finalized and should be distributed by the end of the month. On Monday April 14 Council approved the container site, immediately north of the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, for the project.

b. Brock University art in the Lower Level

R. Cann stated that there is no update at this time. She did share that a tour with L. Bell is being considered.

7. Art Collection

a. Johansson's Bar

R. Cann reported that she was able to speak with Norris Walker about Johansson's Bar and the donation related to it. It was originally from the Queenston Quarries. He had no knowledge of how it is utilized and explained that its display was created to commemorate Walker Industries' donation of material for the neighbouring trail. R. Cann has conferred with the City Solicitor, Parks and Finance about the historic arrangements and confirmed that any commitment to a past donor has been met. A list of people and organizations who have been contacted in the research process and a summary of findings is being compiled. A presentation on the findings will be made to the Green Committee.

b. Sybil Atteck artwork

L. Bell and P. Vietgen presented the two works by Sybil Atteck that they thought best represented the artist's work and would suit the City's art collection. R. Cann discussed her correspondence with Helen Atteck regarding the pricing of the works and responded to questions.

Motion: After discussion regarding the possible acquisition of artwork by Sybil Atteck the Public Art Advisory Committee declines the option to purchase the artist's work.

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

8. Public Art Initiatives

a. City Hall Exhibits

i. Fabric/ation

The exhibition has been moved to June through October because of construction work at City Hall. All the artists are still able to participate. Staff will inform the committee when new dates are confirmed for the exhibition.

ii. City Hall Renovations

There have been many requests from staff at City Hall for artwork in their new offices and areas. These requests and locations are being reviewed. The 2nd floor gallery space is losing another wall. Once the renovations are complete, the committee will tour the space to provide feedback on the future of the program.

b. Centennial Gardens – Artist in Residence concept - Deferred

9. Revisions to Public Art Procurement Process - Deferred

10. Reports

a. Culture Committee

Nothing to report.

b. Arts Awards Design Task Force

L. Bell reported that the group has been finalizing the call to artists and the matrix for selection. The call should be released in May.

c. Joint Mural Task Force

Nothing to report.

d. Cultural Services

R. Cann reported that the City of St. Catharines Arts Awards are May 3 at Rodman Hall. Tickets can be reserved in advance through the cultural services office. Emma German will be returning as Curatorial Assistant for the summer. Her work is part of the Brock Honours exhibit, Trace, currently on at Rodman Hall Art Centre.

11. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of Thursday April 17, 2014.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday May 15, 2014 at 5pm (St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre Public Art)