

# **Public Art Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday May 15, 2014

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor St. Catharines City Hall

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

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday May 15, 2014.

**Moved:** S. Merk

**Seconded:** M. Elliott

**Approved.**

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday April 17, 2014, with noted edits completed.

**Moved:** M. Zuberec

**Seconded:** S. Merk

**Approved.**

### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

### **4. Correspondence**

L. Bell shared the draft of a letter to Helen Atteck regarding the offer to purchase a work of art by Sybil Atteck. The group briefly discussed the draft, which will be sent to Helen Atteck on behalf of the committee.

### **5. Community Public Art Initiatives**

#### **a. Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial**

R. Cann reported work is still being done to complete the RFP for the shortlisted design teams. Issues have arisen related to the inclusion of a park design. Ideally the design teams would pre-select a landscape artist to complete the park design and a member of their team would assume the role of General Contractor for the project. It is a complicated process that the City has not undertaken in the past and multiple departments are being consulted. R. Cann reported that the goal is to have the RFP completed for the design teams by the end of May, about a month behind schedule.

#### **b. Brock University art in the Lower Level**

R. Cann and S. Ritchie shared images that they took during a tour of the Brock campus with L. Bell, who provided a brief overview and history for each work. She explained that she and P. Vietgen sit on a committee that will be

reviewing the work for possible re-location. L. Bell shared a condition assessment that was completed of the collection in the past. Discussion took place on which art would best suit the downtown area. L. Bell will present this feedback at their upcoming committee meeting at Brock. The committee was encouraged to share any other thoughts regarding the works with L. Bell after this meeting.

**c. B. Black donation offer**

R. Cann shared a draft memo regarding the B. Black donation about proposed next steps. The committee reviewed the document and provided feedback. R. Cann invited members to share any thoughts following this meeting via email. She also invited members to contact her if they are interested in attending future meetings regarding the project.

**Action:** R. Cann will make suggested edits to the memo and re-send to the committee via email.

**6. Art Collection**

**a. Johansson's Bar - Deferred**

**b. Acquisition Options**

**i. Letter to Helen Atteck**

See Correspondence.

**ii. Photo of the Back of St. Paul St. by Sandy Fairbairn**

Staff shared images of Sandy Fairbairn's work comprised of photographs taken in the early days of the construction in the lower level. They felt that this piece could be a meaningful addition to the collection and discussed possible display options for the work.

**Action:** Committee members will complete the rating system related to acquisition via email, as provided by staff.

**iii. Standard photos**

R. Cann explained that staff is looking at the possibility of purchasing and printing photographs from the Standard Collection as optional artwork for spaces at City Hall. The committee agreed that this is a good idea when original art is not available.

**7. Public Art Initiatives**

**a. City Hall Exhibits**

**i. Fabric/ation**

The exhibition is still on-hold until renovations are complete at City Hall. Once dates are selected staff will share with the committee.

**ii. Fall exhibit**

E. German discussed some of the changes she has made to an exhibit begun 2 years ago which focuses on the relationship between Brock University and the City of St. Catharines. She shared some of the elements for the exhibit including a possible loan from the Brock University art collection. The group discussed the other 50th anniversary events at Brock University and suggested staff consult the committee when selecting event dates for the exhibit.

**b. Centennial Gardens – Artist in Residence concept**

J. Tupling shared a document comparing artist in residence programs administered in other municipalities. R. Cann noted that a new funding program is expected from the Region of Niagara and municipalities will be eligible to apply for funding for new programs; this project would be a good fit.

**Action:** Staff will share links to the programs online. Committee members will share what they think will and will not work for the Centennial Gardens program.

**8. Revisions to Public Art Procurement Process - Deferred**

**9. Reports**

**a. Culture Committee**

Nothing to report.

**b. Arts Awards Design Task Force**

Nothing to report.

**c. Joint Mural Task Force**

Nothing to report.

**d. Cultural Services**

- R. Cann reported that the City of St. Catharines Arts Awards was a great night. She and other members who attended shared highlights from the event.
- artsVest St. Catharines wrapped up with more than \$133,000 in funding to local arts organizations who initiated new partnerships with local businesses.

**10. Other Business**

M. Elliott and R. Cann will be appearing on Inside St. Catharines, Mayor Brian McMullan's show on Cogeco TV. They will be discussing all the events that have been happening in the St. Catharines arts community this spring including;

cNiagara's award, the Arts Awards and the new Performing Arts Centre.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of Thursday May 15, 2014.

**Moved:** M. Zuberec

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:27 pm

**Next Meeting:** Thursday June 19, 2014 at 5pm (St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre and Meridian Centre Public Art)