

Minutes

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Committee Room 1, City Hall at 4PM

Attendance:

Lesley Bell, Marcie Bronson, Peter Vietgen, Michael Zuberec

Absent:

Councillor Mark Elliott, Sandra Merk

Staff Liaison:

Rebecca Cann, Emma German, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

1. **Call meeting to order (L. Bell)**
Meeting began at 4:02PM
2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
None
3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Moved: P. Vietgen Seconded: M. Zuberec Carried.
4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the July 22, 2014 meeting**
Moved: M. Zuberec Seconded: M. Bronson Carried.
5. **Presentations (invited guests)**
None
6. **Business arising from the minutes**
City Hall Exhibit Program: Staff outlined the request for a report to Council related to the loss of the City Hall exhibit program. As described previously, construction of additional office space has reduced wall space, and the need for furniture for Citizens First clients restricts what can be installed on the walls. The committee noted the loss of the program is regrettable as it:
 - was in an accessible space where the public could discover unexpected works of art
 - was a new form of programming for the City of St. Catharines

- City Hall was where our public art program began
- provided a great opportunity for the arts community, giving local artists the opportunity to participate in a juried exhibit
- the public liked the program and exhibits
- the space is active and allows for an audience of people who would not normally seek out art exhibits

Staff have not included funds in the 2015 budget for an exhibit program, but it could be reinstated for the 2016 budget. The committee discussed other possible City facilities for the program including the downtown library and the Seymour-Hannah Centre.

Action: Committee members to consider alternate sites for an exhibit program.

7. **Community Public Art**

7.1 Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial

Staff reported that the Request for Proposals has been sent to the shortlisted teams, and the deadline for submissions is November 26, 2014. Council approved terms of reference for the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force. Due to construction in the Canal over the next couple of years the memorial will not be completed until 2017.

7.2 Brock University art in lower level

L. Bell reported that 'Path of Possibilities' is being moved to a new location on campus. It is most likely 'The Gate' by R. Buxel that will be moving to the new downtown campus. The committee requested that this topic remain on the agenda for future reports.

8. **Art Collection**

8.1 Johansson's Bar

Committee members have not had a response from the new contacts regarding the artifact. A consultant that is doing other work for the City has added Johansson's Bar to a list-serve for other consultants to review. More discussion is expected at the next meeting as well as a possible motion for the future of the artifact.

8.2 Acquisition from Juried Exhibition

The committee reviewed the summary of shortlisted artworks. Staff will send out rating sheets via email for the top three works on the list. These results will be presented at the next meeting for discussion.

9. **Public Art Initiatives**

9.1 Meridian Centre public art project

Staff shared historical images of Old Tannery Road provided by Brian Narhi, as part of his historical research. A letter has been sent to the three property owners connected to the site. The committee had no comments on the partial draft call for artists. A brief summary of the site's history will be included in the call, with full background material appended.

9.2 Performing Arts Centre public art project

Staff reviewed a matrix of possible sites for the project. The final selected site will affect the type of proposals and the artform. The group discussed the challenges of using the whole Committee for two public art panels – this issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action: Staff will finalize the matrix and email to committee for completion.

9.3 Centennial Gardens – Artist in Residence concept

Staff shared the summary information of what Committee members liked about the different programs presented by staff. A Call to Artists is being developed and will be shared once it is in completed draft form.

10. Revisions to Public Art Procurement Process

Deferred

11. Reports

11.1 Culture Committee

At their last meeting, the Culture Committee approved recommendations for SCCIP funding, to be presented to Council for final approval.

11.2 Arts Award Design Task Force

The call to artists is still open; deadline for submissions is October 16, 2014.

11.3 Joint Mural Task Force

Work is being done on some concepts and calls for possible mural projects.

11.4 Cultural Services

Staff are working with art conservator Sue Maltby on several projects, to try to move outstanding restoration work forward. They are moving forward with work to develop a social media campaign for cNiagara. Work on the exhibit **Brock & the City: 50 Years of Partnerships** is underway. A reminder that the reception will be on **Monday, September 22, 2014 at 4 p.m.** at the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre, Brock University.

12. Other Business

Staff shared the inquiry by artist Victoria Piersig who is interested in installing her artwork outdoors at the St. Catharines Museum. The committee expressed interest in the work and questioned the length of installation and number of pieces involved. The committee would like to invite the artist to a meeting.

Staff noted that committee members will want to consider whether they wish to reapply for committee membership – more information on this process will be available soon.

13. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday, September 18, 2014

14. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved: P. Vietgen Carried: M. Zuberec

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:40 pm