



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

**Public Art Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday February 18, 2010: 4pm  
Atrium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall

**Present:** Lesley Bell, Councillor Mark Elliott, Shirley Madill, Michael Zuberec  
**Regrets:** Stephen Remus, Brent Smith, Peter Vietgen  
**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Jennifer Tupling

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday February 18, 2010.

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from Thursday November 19, 2009.

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

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

R. Cann reviewed with the committee the Public Art 2010 budget, as requested at the November meeting.

L. Bell asked for clarification about the SCCIP-funded mural projects with regard to the relevance of the Green Committee's partnerships with the private sector. R. Cann explained that these are successful examples of how the City of St. Catharines has worked with the private sector to share the costs of projects; which is what is planned for the two Mural Projects. The Green Committee's work functions as a precedent.

M. Zuberec provided the group with an update regarding the installation of the Harriet Tubman bust; which was donated to the BME Church by local sculpture Frank Rekrut. He reported that the materials used for the project are adequate enough to withstand the outdoor installation. He also praised the work of the Green Committee and the aesthetics of the landscape project. M. Zuberec suggested that a tax receipt be issued to the artist as he is not receiving any compensation for his work. He noted there is currently a billboard adjacent to the garden where the bust is to be installed and that it is unflattering to the improvements. R. Cann suggested some contacts that could provide insight into this issue. Staff circulated an article regarding the art donation to the BME Church from the February 8, 2010 edition of the St. Catharines Standard.

**4. Correspondence**

R. Cann noted that information regarding the 2010 insurance coverage for City of St. Catharines volunteers was previously emailed to the group.

**5. Response to the Draft Official Plan**

R. Cann updated the committee on the progress of the Draft Official Plan, and its timeline. She reviewed the sections pertaining to public art and informed the group that she would share any of her suggested edits to this section with them. R. Cann encouraged the committee to submit any recommendations or comments to her regarding the plan, as soon as possible. The committee discussed their upcoming presentation to Council in support of the Draft Official Plan and the Urban Design Guidelines. L. Bell and S. Madill will make the presentation, which could include successful examples of public art in other communities. R. Cann will look at possible dates for the presentation.

**6. Annual Workplan/Schedule**

The group reviewed the Workplan/Schedule and agreed that it was acceptable for the completion of their term.

**7. Public Art**

*Aquatics Facility Public Art Project:* The deadline for submissions is approaching, March 1, 2010. To date the City has 55 interested artists registered from across North America. Currently S.Remus is developing a rating system for the selection process. The additional funds for the project have yet to be confirmed but are looking promising.

*Mural Projects and Development:* R. Cann state that she has drafted a Report to Council on the mural projects and it should be going to Council soon. R. Cann gave the Committee highlights of the report and noted that PAAC is referenced in the report. She confirmed the accuracy of their advice as referenced.

*Exhibits: Shoot High Go Low:* The submission deadline is approaching, with a good response to date. The next step is to develop the jury and set the dates for moving forward. The Committee discussed an earlier suggestion to invite a local member of the athletics community. L. Bell will send an invitation to St. Catharines Olympian, Tonya Verbeek. The Committee agreed on a jury structure of; 2 PAAC members, 1 local athlete, 1 local artist and 1 St. Catharines staff member (not from Cultural Services). Staff will coordinate a date and location.

*Exhibits: Sculpture at City Hall:* The Committee decided to produce an open exhibition call for the space at City Hall currently displaying Rod Dowling's *Circle of Friends*. They also agreed that the call should be open to include not only local artists but also those beyond the community. They will move the process forward through email as the next meeting is scheduled for April. Staff will provide information and assistance as needed. S. Madill volunteered to initiate the draft development.

*Exhibits: Home from the War:* This latest exhibit is now on display in the exhibit space at City Hall. The official opening will be held on February 19 at 4:00 – all are invited to attend and visit [www.wartimehouses.com](http://www.wartimehouses.com). Initial response to the show has been very positive and it is a great example of a successful partnership. S. Madill requested a list of partnerships in the exhibit program. Staff will provide.

*Exhibits: Fall 2010:* Cultural Services currently has two possible ideas for the end-of-year exhibit and shared them with the Committee. Committee members are encouraged to submit ideas that they have, while being mindful of the budget.

*Ghost Signs of Downtown:* No discussion at this time, however there was a brief discussion regarding protecting them from graffiti with the same process used on outdoor murals.

*City Art Collection: Olympic Celebration:* R. Cann distributed the assessment sheets for the latest piece of art donated to the City. She asked the committee to view the work which was recently hung on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall and assess it using the aforementioned sheets. These assessments are to be returned at the April PAAC meeting. Staff will send committee members background information on the painting. S. Madill requested further information on the content of the City's art collection.

*City Art Collection: Spirit of St. Catharines:* R. Cann provided a brief background on this topic and is currently seeking more information into the matter of copyright agreements; this topic

was deferred.

City Art Collection: War Memorials: R. Cann recently attended a meeting of the United Nations Peacekeepers Veterans Association – Niagara Branch and made a presentation to them regarding the St. Catharines war memorials and Private Watson. She reported a positive response and she is looking forward to making this presentation to similar groups in the area.

City Art Collection: Totem Pole: Staff is currently waiting on the evaluation of the Totem Pole.

**8. Report from the Culture Committee**

R. Cann reported on behalf of P. Vietgen that at their last meeting the Culture Committee reviewed the Draft Official Plan and discussed their recommendations. The group also discussed an evaluation process for the Committee and their terms of reference. Also on their agenda was an update regarding ACDC's Draft Capacity Building Plan. There will be a Public Meeting regarding this plan on February 25, 2010. Culture Services will forward a copy of the invitation to the committee.

**9. Report from Cultural Planning Supervisor – R. Cann**

Staffing: Cultural Services recently announced the departure of Annie Wilson from the staff. With restructuring still occurring there are no plans to fill the position as of yet.

Integrated Planning Committee: R. Cann reported that she was recently invited to join the newly developed Integrated Community Sustainability Planning (ICSP) Committee which will oversee the development of a plan following the expiry of the current Community-Based Strategic Plan. Culture is one of the pillars of sustainability being viewed and the process will investigate how to integrate the City's many plans and policies. She also informed the committee that there will be a Community Advisory Committee developed in conjunction with this process and they should consider possible candidates for the "culture" position.

**10. Other Business**

Harriet Tubman Bust – a Project of the Green Committee: Reported on during Business Arising.

Green Committee: L. Bell reported on her recent attendance at one of the Green Committee's meetings. She discussed how she educated the group on the various possibilities for public art within community spaces. L. Bell commented on the timelines of the Green Committee's work and how it compared to PAAC -- their process is shorter for projects. She also remarked on the partnership possibilities with this committee and how she plans to attend again. This also led the group to discuss the possibility of developing a database of artists who could be called upon when a piece public art is desired and the level of fundraising that other Committees embark on.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Thursday April 15, 2010 at 4:00pm in the Ante Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – City Hall**