



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 17, 2010: 4pm

Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Present: Lesley Bell, Councillor Mark Elliott, Shirley Madill, Stephen Remus, Peter Vietgen, Michael Zuberec

Regrets: Brent Smith

Staff: Rebecca Cann, Miriam Cunningham, Jennifer Tupling

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday June 17, 2010.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: S. Remus

Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from Thursday April 15, 2010.

Moved: S. Madill

Seconded: M. Zuberec

Approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nothing at this time.

4. Correspondence

Corporate Services Dept. RE: Official Plan comments: L. Bell reviewed the letter sent by the Corporate Services Department, confirming the letter received from the Public Art Advisory Committee. R. Cann explained that the Official Plan (aka Garden City Plan) has not yet been adopted. She also explained the reference to 1% for Public Art in the Official Plan and that a 1% for Public Art Policy would still require approval from Council. The group discussed Council's support of the Plan and other elements within, such as the 3% for greening.

5. Public Art

Aquatics Facility Public Art Project: R. Cann reported that the community feedback survey is currently online, along with how and where it was distributed. The survey will close on June 30th and response numbers have been encouraging. She explained the upcoming process and noted that a selection recommendation is expected to be presented to Council during the summer.

Mural Projects and Development: No report at this time.

Exhibits: City Hall exhibit space changes: R. Cann announced that changes are underway which will affect the exhibit space on the second-floor of City Hall. There is a plan to move the main reception desk into one of the corners. This will slightly reduce the space accessible for exhibits. No timeframe has been released for the changes and as a result the current show may need to be temporarily removed during construction.

Exhibits: Fall 2010: R. Cann reviewed the two shows available for exhibition in the Fall; *Greek Community of Niagara* and *Paris in 1945*. She also explained how the two historical photographic displays relate to upcoming events/dates of interest in the community. She also discussed a possible Naval exhibit of photos of a scale ship model of the HMCS Port Colborne, which is almost exactly like the HMCS St. Catharines. The Committee discussed the options and decided that all exhibits sounded acceptable for the Fall.

Motion: To exhibit the *Greek Community of Niagara* and *Paris in 1945* shows during the Fall and Winter of 2009/2010.

Moved: M. Zuberec

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Approved.

New Projects for Consideration: Rodman Hall's Robert Houle 1812/2012 Project: S. Madill provided the Committee with an overview of Robert Houle's past projects and how they relate to the project at Rodman Hall for 2012. She presented his interest in representing Tecumseh in his work, as he is missed in much of the 1812 commemoration. S. Madill expressed that at this point the work is slated for the grounds of Rodman Hall but his process may lead him to a City property.

New Projects for Consideration: NAC's Bus Station Project: S. Remus presented a mural project concept from the Niagara Artists' Centre for the inside walls of the Downtown Bus Terminal. He shared a mockup of the proposed work and discussed the artists' rationale. S. Remus then excused himself from the discussion due to conflict of interest. The Committee discussed the issues of ownership (the building is Province owned), maintenance, funding, partnerships and conflict of interest. The Committee noted that if the Bus Terminal was deemed a priority site for public art, a formal call for artists and tender process would be required. The Committee discussed the idea and decided that though it was a great idea, however, they could not support the project at this time.

6. **City Art Collection**

City Art Collection: Shoot High – Go Low, acquisition recommendation: The committee reviewed the works available for purchase that fit within the allotted budget. There was a discussion on which pieces would also suit the Civic Art Collection. A short list of three works were selected. One of the selected works, *The Hockey Game* by George Upper, was favoured by many members of the Committee, however, the value of the piece exceeds the budget. S. Remus volunteered to source a possible donation for the difference. The Committee reviewed the budget set and requested staff to investigate increasing the budget for future years from the current \$1,200 to \$5,000, thereby reflecting the value of work that has been submitted. The Committee also inquired about carrying unused finances from one year to another, creating a fund for the Civic Art Collection. R. Cann will follow-up on these requests.

Motion: Be it resolved that the three works; *Start Line* by Maud Rostaing, *Hockey Shrine* by Jason Dwyer and *The Hockey Game* by George Upper (if funding secured) be presented to Mayor McMullan for acquisition consideration.

Moved: S. Remus

Seconded: M. Elliott

Approved.

City Art Collection: Merritton Heritage Bins: The Committee had a brief discussion regarding the creation of Public Art in other City departments and how it relates back to the terms of the Public Art Advisory Committee. Some examples of such partnerships are; painted trash bins (like the Merritton Heritage Bins), and the recent discussion regarding carving tree stumps.

City Art Collection: Spirit of St. Catharines: R. Cann reported on her discussions with the City of St. Catharines' Legal Department regarding the copyright of the *Spirit of St. Catharines*. She outlined the fact that no formal documentation or agreement exists stating that the City of St. Catharines is the owner of the piece. The Committee discussed the matter and provided feedback regarding possible resolutions. R. Cann expressed that this issue not only affects the ownership of this work but all other recent acquisitions to the City's Art Collection, and it will also be a matter to be addressed during the current Public Art competition. Members of the Committee suggested that this could be addressed through an exhibit agreement signed by

the artist and that once work is acquired an agreement regarding ownership is also completed. Other financial matters to be considered in this process are royalties on any commercial use of the artwork, and future exhibit fees.

City Art Collection: Anchor Report: R. Cann reviewed the report and the current state of the project. The Committee discussed the maintenance and preservation of the Anchor. They agreed that the Heritage Committee and Museum staff should be consulted on matters relating to work done on the Anchor to ensure its historical relevance remains accurate.

City Art Collection: Totem Pole: R. Cann presented a brief overview of the recently submitted Insurance Evaluation of the Totem Pole in Centennial Park. The Committee discussed their involvement in the project moving forward, a topic of consideration being, *why is the Totem important to St. Catharines?* They also discussed the matter of community relations for the project. Cultural Services staff will share the report in its entirety at a later date.

City Art Collection: War Memorials: M. Cunningham, Cultural Services' Summer Student, is currently updating the War Memorials in TMS. Staff has also completed basic condition assessments on other memorials. A process is underway to give the memorials a general cleaning as recommended in the Conservator's report.

7. Percent for Art Policy

S. Remus reviewed the draft Percent for Art Policy, and how it was produced. The Committee discussed the possible missed opportunities of past capital projects and how they could be sited in support of the policy. This included not only facility growth but also infrastructure such as the QEW expansion. The Committee looked to future projects and how funds from these could be allocated for Public Art. They discussed possible staffing requirements as a result of the policy and the role of the Public Art Advisory Committee. Members of the Committee agreed that the draft was a great start to the Percent for Art Policy and that they would continue dialogue via email.

8. Report from the Culture Committee

P. Vietgen reported that the Culture Committee made a presentation to Council on June 7th regarding the Official Plan, and they were well received. He announced that applications for the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) are now available; the deadline is August 27, 2010. The SCCIP committee is meeting to review the programs policy. P. Vietgen also announced that Arts Awards nominations are now being accepted; deadline July 23rd, 2010. He reported that the Culture Committee is currently undergoing a review of their terms of reference as outlined in the Municipal Cultural Policy.

9. Report from Cultural Planning Supervisor – R. Cann

uthink: New locations and readings are being added this year. Two of these locations are on City property; the Lakeside Park Carousel and Lock 3.

Navy Centennial Concert: The concert raised \$3,000 for the restoration of the St. Catharines War Memorials. Cultural Services is discussing a possible collaboration with the Niagara Youth Orchestra, who are raising funds for a trip to Second World War sites in Europe.

stcatharines.ca: The new City website was delayed from its original release date but is now set to go live June 19, 2010. There will some changes in the location of Cultural Services information, staff will send out updated links to current important pages; public art competition, SCCIP etc.

Lakeside Park Carousel: A hydraulic shaft recently broke, which controlled some jumpers. The

part was sent to a welder for repair, and the Carousel was closed for a day.

Niagara Centre for the Arts: An announcement is expected in the coming weeks regarding the appointment of the project management firm.

- 10. Other Business**
Nothing at this time.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday August 19, 2010 at 4:00pm in the Ante Room, 3rd Floor – City Hall