



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

**Public Art Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**
Thursday November 25, 2010: 4pm
Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday November 25, 2010, with the move of New Acquisition to item #5.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: M. Elliott

Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from Thursday August 19, 2010.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: M. Zuberec

Approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Hockey Shrine by Jason Dwyer has been acquired, framed and is currently on display in the Mayor's office. *Treasured Legacy – More than 100 years of Greeks in Niagara*, has now ended. The exhibit was a great success and staff received positive feedback regarding it. The latest exhibit *On Leave in Paris 1945* is currently on display on the 2nd floor of City Hall – a feature story was included in the St. Catharines Standard's Remembrance Day coverage regarding the exhibit and Major Barlow.

4. Correspondence

None.

5. New Acquisitions – Upland Rhythm and Light House

R. Cann presented the two works and explained that they have been on display in the Mayor's office for the past 4 years through the Rodman Hall art rental program. She explained that the Mayor suggested purchasing the two works; however because of budgetary restrictions it is only feasible to select one at this time. They completed the *Rating System for Public Art* as outlined in the Public Art Policy and discussed the works and their relation to St. Catharines.

Motion: To move forward with the purchase of *Upland Rhythm* by Dr. Robert Fisher, for inclusion in the City of St. Catharines Civic Art Collection.

Moved: S. Remus

Seconded: M. Zuberec

Approved.

Action: Staff will contact Rodman Hall to begin the purchase process. Updates will be sent via email.

6. Committee Renewal

R. Cann explained the new committee structure for Cultural Services and how they would be assembled. The deadline for applications is December 17, 2010 and an information night will be hosted on December 14, 2010 for any potential new members.

Action: Staff will forward application information to committees in the coming weeks.

7. **Percent for Art Policy**
Deferred.

8. **Public Art**

Aquatics Facility Public Art Project: R. Cann reported that the selection team has made their selection. A report to Council will be required to move forward with the project, and will go forward in January 2011.

Mural Projects and Development: R. Cann reported that she attended a Graffiti Committee meeting and that they have funds remaining in their budget, carried over from other years for graffiti removal. They are considering a mural as an alternate use of the funds, as a graffiti eradication measure. They feel that this could be a trial activity for a future mural program. R. Cann suggested different manners in which they could move forward with this idea: create a call for submissions asking for artists and community groups to submit or use the existing SCCIP-funded mural projects as pilot projects to see what the outcomes are and to measure the Graffiti Committee's definition of success. The Outdoor Mural Subcommittee is going back to the Graffiti Committee to discuss further – the Graffiti Committee wants to provide only 50% of the funding, so interested parties would have to find a match, and they would need to pre-select some sites for inclusion in a Call for Submissions. PAAC will need to be involved in the selection/jury process. R. Cann asked if any member would be available to assist the Outdoor Mural Subcommittee with developing a process – L. Bell volunteered.

Action: L. Bell will work with the Outdoor Mural Subcommittee to develop a mural call for submissions.

Exhibits: Tending our Garden City, 2011 Juried Show: R. Cann asked for the committee's advice on distributing the call within the local school system. The committee discussed which disciplines at a University level would be interested in the topic and how it would relate to high school students. They felt that the youth would bring a fresh outlook on the subject matter and that it would relate well to their studies. PAAC identified other community groups that would also identify with the theme.

Action: P. Vietgen will discuss the call with the Arts and Culture reps at both school-boards. S. Remus will discuss with Start Me Up Niagara and the Social Justice program at Brock University. Updates will be sent via email.

Exhibits: Sculpture at City Hall: The committee reviewed the draft Call for Submissions. They discussed the minimal funds being provided to the artist. They wish to investigate if this is a reasonable budget with local sculptures, see what their response to the call would be. PAAC also discussed the possibility of limiting the call to Ontario residents, as the budget for travel and shipping is unreasonable for any real distance. They also considered seeking sponsorship to increase the budget. PAAC felt that the breakdown of the budget should be removed from the call and that an inclusive budget be provided, with artists submitting a budget breakdown as part of their application.

Action: L. Bell and S. Remus will contact local sculptors and assess their response to the current budget. Updates will be sent via email.

Staff will make changes to the call as discussed during the meeting. Updates will be sent via email.

Exhibits: Fall/Winter 2011: PAAC discussed possible themes for the 2011 Fall/Winter exhibit. They decided to explore the idea of doing a committee curated show with work produced by

known community members. The “artists” would not be identified in relation to the works so that those viewing the show have to guess who the artist is (a community engagement strategy much like NAC’s *Hot Shots*). The pieces could then be sold as a fundraiser for PAAC projects.

Action: S. Remus will draft a concept for the show. Updates will be sent via email.

New Projects – Art Centre: R. Cann reported that there is currently a \$50,000 budget for public art in the New Art Centre. The committee discussed the idea of including the Totem Pole in the new Art Centre, as has been done inside other buildings such as the Royal Ontario Museum. They suggested that the funds allocated for public art in the new building could benefit the extensive restoration budget for the Totem. R. Cann reported that the Totem will require time to dry-out before any restoration process can begin and that community consultation is needed. She will review PAAC’s recommendations with the Totem Pole restoration committee.

9. City Art Collection

City Art Collection: Lester B. Pearson by Danek Mozdzinski: R. Cann explained that she was contacted by an artist who was commissioned to create a sculpture of Pearson for Ottawa in 1988. One of the terms of the commission was that the casts (2 different sizes) be made available to other communities. The casts are deteriorating and he is contacting communities that might be interested in pursuing a sculpture. R. Cann outlined the costs, as he presented them from 1988. The committee discussed the relevance in relation to St. Catharines and the cost associated with the project. They felt it was not the best use of money when there are more pressing Public Art initiatives. They suggested the opportunity can be presented to Council as an information item.

Action: Staff will present a report to Council as information. Updates will be sent via email.

City Art Collection: Spirit of St. Catharines: Deferred

City Art Collection: Totem Pole: R. Cann explained that a core test was performed on the Totem Pole. The results were not positive and displayed that the condition of the Totem Pole is not good. More information will follow on next steps.

City Art Collection: Presentation to Council: R. Cann inquired about the committee making a presentation of the City’s latest acquisitions to City Council. S. Remus and P. Vietgen volunteered to make the presentation in January 2011.

Action: Staff will confirm an ideal date for the presentation. Updates will be sent via email.

10. Report from the Culture Committee

P. Vietgen reported that the 2010 SCCIP recommendations were presented to the Culture Committee at their last meeting. He noted that there was a significantly greater need than funding available. P. Vietgen reported that the Culture Committee also approved the new Terms of Reference, which are going to Council for approval.

11. Report from Cultural Planning Supervisor – R. Cann

Arts Centre Project: the Request for Proposals will soon be sent to the short listed architects. Interviews will take place in mid-January. The selection of an architect is expected in February 2011. In the meantime, work is underway to establish a User Group Committee to ensure arts community involvement with the next phase of the project.

Cultural Capitals of Canada Grant: Cultural Services staff and other members of the cultural

community have been helping the Region to develop activity proposals for a grant application to Cultural Capitals of Canada for 2012. There is a potential for a 2.6 million dollar investment in Arts and Culture initiatives from the federal and regional governments combined. The Niagara Artists Centre is also involved and presenting some interesting Public Art projects.

2011 City Guide: Staff are working on the content for the 2011 City Guide, again this year there has been an increase in the Culture Section of the guide

Building the Arts of St. Catharines: A Plan for Sector Growth: Work continues on resourcing the project, specifically with grant applications.

Culture Plan: an funding request has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture by the City's Programs and Cultural Services Division to renew the Municipal Cultural Policy into a Culture Plan.

12. Other Business

The Committee was asked to save-the-date for Wednesday December 8, 2010: more information to follow.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:33 p.m.

2011 Committee Applications – Deadline December 17, 2010 – Notice to come in future.

Next Meeting: The Public Art Advisory will not meet again until 2011 - once the new committee is formed.