



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

**Public Art Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday February 17, 2011: 4pm  
Atrium Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall

**Present:** Councillor Mark Elliott, Lesley Bell (Past Chair), Shirley Madill, Sandra Merk, Stephen Remus, Michael Zuberec

**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

L. Bell welcomed the group to the first meeting of the 2010-2014 term's Public Art Advisory Committee. She greeted returning members and took a moment for those new to the Committee to introduce themselves with a brief background.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday February 17, 2011.

**Moved:** M. Elliott                      **Seconded:** S. Remus                      **Approved.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from Thursday November 25, 2010.

**Moved:** M. Elliott                      **Seconded:** M. Zuberec                      **Approved.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

*Upland Rhythm* by Dr. Robert Fisher has been acquired from Rodman Hall as part of the Civic Collection, and remains on display in the Mayor's office. The two recent additions to the collection, *Upland Rhythm* and *Hockey Shrine* by Jason Dwyer, were presented to City Council on Monday February 7, 2011. An article discussing the works and the City Hall exhibit program was featured in the St. Catharines Standard on Friday February 11, 2011 (*Artist shows arena as humble and holy*; Marlene Bergsma)

**5. Correspondence**

A letter from Jan Bechard dated February 7, 2011; was delivered to Cultural Services regarding nominations for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Night. The letter asks for nominations from each Committee: staff inquired about a nomination from the Public Art Advisory Committee. The committee discussed possible nominations.

**Motion:** To nominate Peter Vietgen for recognition of his continued dedication to the Public Art Advisory Committee.

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

**Action:** S. Remus will complete the official nomination on behalf of the Public Art Advisory Committee, prior to the March 25<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**6. Selection of Committee Chair**

L. Bell recalled her past term as chair of the Public Art Advisory Committee. She reviewed with the group the tasks and responsibilities of Committee Chair, and the support available from staff. She inquired if anyone was interested in the position for the current term or if there were any nominations.

**Motion:** That Lesley Bell be nominated as Chair of the Public Art Advisory Committee with S. Remus as Co-Chair.

**Moved:** S. Madill

**Seconded:** M. Zuberec

**Approved.**

**7. General Orientation**

R. Cann discussed the following documents with the Committee and outlined how they are utilized throughout the term. In regards to some of the documents it was suggested that this term's Committee may consider reviewing and updating them as noted below. She reminded the Committee that any changes to Council approved policies must be presented to Council for further approval.

- *City Committee General Information*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *PAAC Terms of Reference and Background* – review and update in a process comparable to that recently completed by the Culture Committee
- *Public Art Policy and Ratings Assessment* – Review Policy in relation to current status of Public Art in St. Catharines. Make changes to Ratings Assessment, as former term's Committee found it challenging to apply to all situations.
- *Other City culture-related policies*
- *Exhibit Program* – The current budget for this program includes funds designated for the City Hall Sculpture program.
- *Civic Art Collection PowerPoint*

**8. Percent for Art Policy**

Deferred.

**9. Public Art in the Garden City Plan**

R. Cann provided a brief overview of Public Art in the Garden City Plan (Official Plan). She noted the significance of having Public Art in the Plan as it provides an opportunity to build upon when bringing public art and related initiatives forward to City Council.

**10. Overview of Work for Current Term**

R. Cann discussed what the Public Art Advisory Committee will be undertaking within the next four years. These subjects not only include those of regular discussion, such as the Exhibit Program but also focused tasks including, but not limited to; Committee Terms of Reference, Percent for Art Policy, Murals, Restoration of current Public Art, Public Art Commissions, definition of collection items and best location in the City structure, Public Art Policy review, consideration of a Public Art Plan and the continued work with the Urban Design Guidelines. R. Cann gave a brief description of these projects; however, the Committee will receive more details as work progresses. She also noted that a workplan for the term will be developed and presented to the Committee for a complete overview of the term's work.

**Action:** Staff will develop a workplan for the Public Art Advisory Committee.

**11. Public Art Exhibits**

*Tending Our Garden City:* The committee selected members for the exhibit jury. A suggestion was made to invite Erin O'Hoski, Corporate Planning Officer for the City of St. Catharines, as a member of the jury. This would relate to her work with the sustainability strategy. A jury date of March 19, 2011 at 9:00am was set by staff prior to the meeting. S. Remus offered to host the meeting at the Niagara Artists' Centre. He also expressed concern over the possible lack of submissions, from his discussions with community artists. Members of the Public Art Advisory Committee were asked to promote the Call with their acquaintances in the coming weeks.

**Action:** Staff will invite Erin O'Hoski as a member of the jury, keep Committee aware of submission numbers and update the jury on meeting arrangements.

**Committee members:** will continue promotion of call.

*Sculpture at City Hall – Call for Submissions:* The Committee reviewed the latest draft of the Call. They provided final comments and edits to staff; including the drawings provided by M. Zuberec, using current photos of the site and keeping the call open to all Canadian artists.

**Action:** Staff will finalize the call and submit it to the City's Purchasing Department for the next stage of the process.

*Fall/Winter 2011:* Staff presented an idea of developing a show celebrating the architectural growth in St. Catharines. Highlighting the new buildings, and the stories of their locations' metamorphosis – the history of these sites. The Committee encouraged the idea. Ideas for the 2012 juried show will be discussed in upcoming meetings.

## 12. **City Art Collection**

*Totem Pole:* R. Cann provided an update on the project. She explained that a report will be presented to Council in the near future regarding the restoration of the Totem. She gave the Committee an idea of the Totem's value and possible budget required for restoration. R. Cann discussed the idea of installing the Totem in the arts centre, as the design phase is about to begin and this idea would need to be presented to the architects shortly. The Committee agreed that the centre is an ideal location for a restored Totem. They also discussed the option of applying the public art funds for the arts centre to the Totem's restoration. M. Elliott noted it is an existing piece of public art and restoration or maintenance is a responsibility of ownership, suggesting that any funds designated for public art in the arts centre should be utilized to acquire a new work. L. Bell inquired about the possibility of including an artist in the building's design phase to incorporate the new work. R. Cann explained that this would not fit into the current timeline but will be reviewed in future, probably with the assistance of the S. Richie and Planning.

**Action:** Staff will share the insurance report regarding the Totem Pole via email.

*St. Catharines Cenotaph:* R. Cann explained that this matter is moving forward and a restoration plan will be developed in the next couple months.

## 13. **Reports:**

### ***Culture Committee – R. Cann***

The Culture Committee for the 2010-2014 term has been selected and approved; however they have not yet met.

### ***Cultural Services – R. Cann***

*Arts Centre Project:* The City of St. Catharines and Brock University have both selected Diamond and Schmitt Architects to design their portions of the Downtown Academic and Cultural Arts Centre Project. A User Group Committee has been formed to represent the needs of the future users; they will be involved in the consultation process with the architects. Public consultation meetings will also be arranged regarding the design, and staff will notify committee members when these meetings are announced.

## 14. **Other Business**

R. Cann reported that the request to carry-over funds from year to year designated for acquisitions was approved. This means that any unused funds from one year can be applied

towards purchasing another work in the future, which can allow for the purchase of a more costly artwork for the Civic Art Collection.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:32 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 17, 2011 at 4:00pm – Ante Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall**