



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 19, 2011: 4pm

Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Present: Marcie Bronson, Councillor Mark Elliott, Stephen Remus (Co-Chair), Peter Vietgen
Regrets: Lesley Bell (Co-Chair), Sandra Merk, Michael Zuberec
Guest: Julie Hughes, Tisha Polocko, Maggie Riopelle
Staff: Rebecca Cann, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

1. Welcome and Introductions

S. Remus welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the group to the committee's newest member, Marcie Bronson. S. Remus also welcomed the guests in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday May 19, 2011.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: M. Bronson

Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from Thursday April 21, 2011.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: S. Remus

Approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nothing at this time.

5. Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

6. Public Art

Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art: R. Cann reported that the contract between the City of St. Catharines and Naoko Matsubara is being finalized. She also discussed the recent visit by her and S. Remus to Naoko Matsubara's studio in Oakville. The fall will be when a Community Meeting will be scheduled with the artist.

Mural Proposals to Graffiti Committee: Tisha Polocko provided the committee with a background of the mural projects, as well as the process and events that lead to the present. She described questions and concerns that the Graffiti Committee had on the matter.

S. Remus noted the Public Art Advisory Committee's concerns regarding City policies, specifically the Public Art Policy and the Procurement Policy. The committee raised concerns regarding the quality of work and the unheard voices of others in the community; tourism, heritage and arts community member; in the process of developing the project.

The group discussed the use of tax payers' money on private property improvements, and ownership and maintenance responsibilities. R. Cann noted that SCCIP funded projects were challenged by these issues.

Committee members provided insight into the timelines and process required to develop a Call to Artists. They suggested this was the best course of action to ensure such opportunities are accessible to all local artists. They discussed the RFP process for the public art commission at the new Kiwanis Aquatic Centre and what was learned from its completion. They explained that

they will be reviewing Public Art Procurement Procedures in the near future.

As a group they discussed possible next steps for the projects and PAAC expressed the importance of providing clear wording in the proposal to the project planner. S. Remus volunteered to consult with those who submitted the proposal.

The group concluded by discussing the connection between the Graffiti Committee and the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Action: The Public Art Advisory Committee will submit a letter to the Graffiti Committee on this matter prior to their June 7, 2011 meeting.

Action: S. Remus will consult with the Graffiti Committee regarding the mural project and those who submitted the proposal.

Exhibits

Sculpture at City Hall – Call for Submissions: Deferred

7. City Art Collection

Donation from Ed Telenko: R. Cann presented an acrylic painting by artist Ed Telenko which he presented as a donation to the Civic Art Collection. She explained the history of the possible donation and discussed the process for accepting donations into the collection. The committee completed the rating system, as outlined in the Public Art Policy, in relation to the discussed piece.

The work did not receive the minimal score required to be accepted into the Collection.

Action: R. Cann will contact the artist with the committee's results.

8. Percent for Art Policy – New Draft Deferred.

S. Ritchie provided an updated copy of the draft that has been developed.

9. Public Art Procurement Process

This matter was deferred. The group did discuss briefly the need for a member of the committee to assist with the process. M. Bronson volunteered to assist.

There was also a quick discussion on the matter of site selection for future projects.

Action: M. Bronson will assist R. Cann with the Public Art Procurement Process.

10. Reports: ***Culture Committee – P. Vietgen***

P. Vietgen reported that the majority of the Culture Committee meeting was committee reports. The SCCIP Committee has been reviewing the Artist in the Community Program Stream – they hosted a focus group with past recipients and they passed a motion to change terminology in the program policy and materials to improve clarity. The Arts Awards Committee has begun a review process of the program. Nominations for 2011 are now open, with information available at: <http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/livein/TrilliumArtsAwards.asp>. The Culture Committee discussed the Mural issue that PAAC has been reviewing, focusing on how this matter related to their mandate, and asking to stay informed regarding the matter.

Cultural Services – R. Cann

Creative City: R. Cann and J. Tupling attended the 2011 Creative City Network of Canada Summit in London from May 10 to May 12, 2011. It was a great opportunity to discuss municipal cultural matters with others in the field and they came back with some great new ideas & information.

Curatorial Assistant (Summer Student Hire): Culture Services staff has completed interviews for the position. The top candidate is being contacted and is scheduled to begin training on May 24, 2011.

Arts Centre Open House: The Arts Centre architects will be hosting an Open House on May 25 at the Russell Ave. Community Centre to present their building program for the centre. The presentation will also be available online:

<http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/governin/ArtsCentreDesign.asp>

1812 Public Art: Rebecca reported on a meeting with Rod Morris, who is interested in developing a public art project to commemorate the First Canadians of St. Catharines and Niagara who were involved in the Battle of Beaverdams Creek. He is looking at a Department of Canadian Heritage grant to fund a bronze statue of Dominic Decharmes, William Kerr and Laura Secord, representing respectively French Canadians, First Nations and Loyalists. He has a few ideas for sites, which Rebecca shared with the Committee. Discussion took place on the issues associated with the sites, and a suggestion was made to consider the vacant lot at St. Paul and James Streets. S. Ritchie noted that some discussion has taken place in planning about another building being developed on that lot to continue the streetscape. M. Elliott noted that public space is in short supply downtown and this corner could make an excellent urban park, with cultural amenities, and would be a great link between the future arts centre and civic square.

Action: S. Ritchie will confer with Paul Chapman about this site. R. Cann will review written materials provide by Rod Morris and share with the Committee for further discussion.

11. Other Business

Nothing at this time

Motion to Adjourn: P. Vietgen. **Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:18 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Thursday June 16, 2011 at 4:00pm – Ante Room, 3rd Floor City Hall