



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 16, 2011: 4pm
Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Present: Lesley Bell (Co-Chair), Marcie Bronson, Councillor Mark Elliott, Sandra Merk, Michael Zuberec
Regrets: Stephen Remus (Co-Chair), Peter Vietgen
Staff: Rebecca Cann, Michael Dejong, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting. R. Cann introduced M. Dejong, Cultural Services' Curatorial Assistant for the summer. L. Bell led the group in a roundtable introduction to welcome M. Dejong.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday June 16, 2011.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: M. Bronson

Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from Thursday May 19, 2011.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: M. Bronson

Approved.

4. Business Arising

Will be discussed in meeting.

5. Correspondence

Staff shared emails from community members regarding the selection of *Aquatic Movement* as the Public Art for the Kiwanis Aquatic Centre, prior to the meeting. The major issue expressed in these emails was that the artist was not local. The group discussed how to provide more ready information on the process used to select the work, including local promotion. There is also a need to articulate the value of having variety within the City's Art collection. The group agreed that there is a need to promote these issues – and others - with the community in future.

6. Public Art

Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art: Staff shared a recent article featuring Naoko Matsubara in the City's Newsletter, *The Current*.

Mural Proposals to Graffiti Committee: L. Bell reported that she and S. Remus have been meeting with the Graffiti Committee since they attended the last PAAC meeting. She reported that the Western Hill community group submitting the proposal agreed to the development and distribution of a Call to Artists. PAAC members agreed to craft the call for them and the Western Hill community group would release it. A draft Call to Artists has been developed at this point and is currently being reviewed for compliance with City process. R. Cann discussed some of the issues with the Call and the selection process. She also presented conditions of funding that she has recommended for the Graffiti Committee's consideration. PAAC discussed recommendations for the future and agreed that they will write a letter to the Graffiti Committee once this project's process is complete.

Action: Staff will keep committee informed on project as it develops.

Action: The Public Art Advisory will send a letter to the Graffiti Committee regarding the development of mural projects within the City once the Train Station project process is complete.

7. Exhibits

Sculpture at City Hall – Call for Submissions: R. Cann explained that the Call for Submissions is currently not ready for release and timelines within it will have to be altered to reflect the delay. As a result no new work will be available to replace Rod Dowling's *Circle of Friends* before his contract expires.

Motion: To present Rod Dowling with an extended agreement for the temporary installation of *Circle of Friends* on the James Street lawn of City Hall, for one year.

Moved: M. Zuberec

Seconded: S. Merk

Approved.

Action: Staff will contact Rod Dowling with a request to extend the agreement.

Fall 2012 Exhibit Title: The committee brainstormed titles and subtitles for the fall exhibit. The group also discussed possible elements to be displayed as part of the show and provided staff with resources for more information.

Action: Staff will develop an exhibit title and focus using the suggestions of the committee; it will be circulated via email for approval.

Acquisition from Tending Our Garden City: The committee reviewed the pieces in the exhibit and discussed the works that would make the best additions to the Civic Art Collection. A shortlist of five works was selected for further review, and a final selection will be made at the July 21 PAAC meeting.

Action: Staff will send the committee the artists' statements for the shortlisted artworks, prior to the next meeting.

8. Percent for Art Policy – New Draft

The committee reviewed the draft for the private sector that S. Ritchie drafted. Discussion included the potential for public art projects to be initiated from the Planning Department, and the importance of a Public Art Plan once this policy is approved and implemented. This document will be merged with the other draft sections of the Percent for Art Policy and reviewed in whole at the July 21 PAAC meeting.

Action: Staff will merge the draft documents into one document and distribute it to the committee via email.

9. Public Art Procurement Process

Have not met to date – nothing to report.

10. Reports:

Culture Committee

No Report.

Cultural Services – R. Cann

Culture Plan: Cultural Services staff has completed interviews for the Culture Planning Assistant position and is expected to begin training on June 20, 2011. The RFP for the Culture Plan Consultant is expected to be released by the end of June.

CultureinNiagara.com: The closure of the St. Catharines and Area Arts Council has left a void in the website partnership and other options are being discussed by the partnership. Niagara College is working on the programming for the site and making updates since it is 2 year-old technology. The Niagara Region is participating in planning meetings regarding the site's development and operation.

Arts Centre: The selection process for the Centre's Executive Director is moving forward. The Public Meeting on May 25, 2011 was very well attended. Community members provided comments at the meeting and through the City's website following the evening. Schematic drawings were on display and the architectural team was in attendance to present them. The schematic drawings are to be finalized by the end of June. There have also been discussions on possible site locations for Public Art, which will be presented to this committee in the near future.

Action: Staff will share the link to the drawings with the committee.

St. Catharines' Cenotaph: M. Dejong has been doing research on the history of the Cenotaph, focusing on past restorations. This information is being collected for the current restoration plan which is in progress for the cenotaph.

Port Dalhousie Cenotaph: A resident contacted Cultural Services staff to inform them that the sculpture on the cenotaph was lifting from its pins. Staff examined the sculpture and identified that there is a slight list to the sculpture. A conservator is scheduled to come and look at the cenotaph.

Lakeside Park Carousel: M. Dejong has been photographing and cataloguing the blood-sport paintings that surround the Carousel. They will be added to the online database (TMS). It is planned that he will also do the same work with the repainted shields.

1812 Public Art: R. Cann provided the committee with an update on the project and S. Ritchie discussed the possible locations that had been identified downtown. The location that was debated at length was the empty lot at the corner of St. Paul and James Street. The land would be purchased by the City of St. Catharines and turned into a public space, which could include the sculpture. S. Ritchie noted that the Planning Department has been considering a new building on that site and he suggested alternative locations throughout downtown. The group talked about these locations, as well as the need for planning regarding public realm and open spaces throughout the city. PAAC will discuss the Call to Artists for this project at the July 21 meeting, and noted Club LaSalle's plans to submit a grant application in September.

Action: R. Cann will email more information on this project to the committee.

11. Other Business
Nothing at this time

Motion to Adjourn: S. Merk. **Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:41 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Thursday July 21, 2011 at 4:00pm – Ante Room, 3rd Floor City Hall