



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 18, 2011: 4pm
Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also welcomed R. Morris and thanked him for being available if the group had any questions for him regarding the 1812 Public Art Project.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday August 18, 2011, moving of *First Canadians War of 1812 project* as the first topic under the *Public Art – Exhibits* discussion.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: M. Elliott

Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from Thursday July 21, 2011 and the amended Special Meeting of Wednesday August 3, 2011 – the Wednesday August 3, 2011 minutes will be appended to the Thursday July 21, 2011 minutes.

Moved: M. Zuberec

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Approved.

4. Business Arising

Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art: R. Cann reported that the contract with Naoko Matsubara has been signed.

The Train Station Mural Project: Work has begun on the project, photos are posted on facebook and progress can be viewed at the station.

Action: J. Tupling will share the link to the photos with PAAC.

5. Correspondence

From Donna Szoke re: Centennial Gardens Poster Installation

The committee reviewed D. Szoke's recommendation to use the retaining wall at Centennial Park plaza, where the Provincial Crest mosaics were once installed, to display a poster exhibit. They inquired about the plans for this section of the park in the Council-approved restoration project. Discussion took place and included the following considerations:

- Could the project idea provide local artists a new venue to display their work?
- Work could be rotated throughout the warmer months (4 months total, with new works each month);
- Could be an interesting connection to the In the Soil festival;
- It could encourage more creative use of the park, making it more accessible to the public;
- Administrative and financial needs of the project would still exist, despite low expense of installation etc. Staff time is limited for new initiatives;
- The site may require initial repair work to ready it for exhibits;

- How can different service organizations be involved?

S. Remus informed the group that the Niagara Artists' Centre (NAC) currently has a staff member who focuses on off-site programming and there may be a partnering opportunity.

Motion: That staff investigate the possibility of developing a pilot project, partnering with the Niagara Artists' Centre, for the installation of artwork in Centennial Park plaza over a four (4) month period.

Moved: S. Remus

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Approved.

Action: Staff will include the initiative in the 2012 exhibit budget.

Letter to the Graffiti Committee from the Public Art Advisory Committee

The committee reviewed the letter drafted by S. Remus and provided one edit. The letter will be finalized and sent to the Graffiti Committee. R. Cann informed the committee that she will be writing the report to Council regarding the mural program and will discuss it with this committee in the future.

Action: Staff will finalize the letter and send it to the Graffiti Committee.

6. Public Art Exhibits

First Canadians War of 1812 project R. Cann reported that the motion approved by the committee at the meeting held on Wednesday August 3, 2011, was forwarded internally. She had a reply from Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Museum Operations/Curator, suggesting that the project being developed in Thorold is more likely a monument, not a public art project. R. Cann subsequently met with a member of the Thorold 1812 Committee, requested feedback, and has provided that feedback for the Committee's consideration, specifically that "If the sculpture is to be explicitly linked to the Battle of Beaverdams, then it should be in Thorold, not St. Catharines."

The following recommendations related to the project were reviewed by PAAC:

- That the City have final approval of the project description, site selection, and artist selection process, including jury make-up
- That at least 2 members of the PAAC participate in the selection jury, and the jury be no more than 5 people and made up of individuals with design and/or visual arts expertise
- That the project include sufficient funds to hire a public art consultant to manage the selection process, commissioning and installation of the project
- That a preferred site be identified and any approval requirements coordinated by City staff
- That the public artwork not be limited to a bronze sculpture
- That the project develop a community engagement process to allow for public feedback/input before the final artwork is selected
- That the project respect the concerns of the Thorold War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee
- That RCS staff decide on the appropriate level of City support for the project, in the form of funding (pending Council approval of 2012 budget) and in-kind staff time

R. Morris noted that these were what the organizing committee was expecting the City to suggest. There was a brief discussion regarding the advantages of hiring a Public Art Consultant.

Discussion took place about the optimal City owned site, which was narrowed to: the grounds of City Hall, the Gateway Downtown (formerly Shipman's Corner) or a site near the new Burgoyne Bridge being developed. R. Morris suggested that these sites would all be complementary to the project, and some had already been considered by the organizing committee.

The committee inquired whether Club LaSalle is open to other mediums and compositions. R. Morris stated that the project committee is open to alternative ideas and suggested there will be further discussion regarding these topics presented by PAAC.

The committee thanked R. Morris for answering their questions, he thanked them for their time and left the meeting. PAAC discussed the project further focusing on the matter of subject material and historical accuracy.

Motion: Pending further review of a revised project description the Public Art Advisory Committee support in principle the idea of City staff working with Club LaSalle to develop a public art initiative in this community.

Moved: M. Zuberec

Seconded: L. Bell

Approved.

2012 Exhibit Timeline

R. Cann reviewed the 2012 exhibit timeline with the committee. The next exhibit (winter 2011/2012) will need to start development soon as it relies heavily on community engagement. The group expressed that the latter half of the 2012 schedule is heavy on military themes.

Action: Committee members will email staff any comments or ideas that they have regarding the 2012 exhibit timeline and themes.

Theme ideas for 2012 Juried Show: The group discussed possible ideas for the 2012 juried exhibit theme:

- A theme related to the urban environment (ie. Streets or Life Between Buildings)
- An abstract theme, such as one word provided for inspiration (ie. Red).
- Redesigns of the City's logo (note: the City of St. Catharines is currently undertaking a rebranding process that is scheduled for completion in the Fall, so the timing would not work.)
- Logo ideas for the new Performing Arts Centre

The deadline for releasing the call is October so a decision is required at the next meeting.

Action: Committee members will submit any ideas for themes, with a brief description, to Staff for collation.

Urban Metamorphosis: M. Dejong reported that he is finalizing the exhibit and it will be hung next week. R. Cann noted he has done a terrific job and it should be a very interesting exhibit. It has been sometime since there has been a Cultural Services-developed exhibit at City Hall and this will be a great return. The committee requested that an official opening be scheduled for the exhibit.

Action: Staff will select a date for an opening and send scheduling information to PAAC.

City Hall Sculpture Program: Nothing to report at this time.

Updates- Nothing at this time.

7. Percent for Art Policy – New Draft

Deferred.

8. Public Art Procurement Process

Deferred.

9. Civic Art Collection

Copyright Agreement

R. Cann reviewed the research that staff had completed on Copyright Agreements in other municipalities from a provided handout. She noted that some cities provide a copyright fee based on a percentage of the sale cost, and the artist signs a copyright agreement. The group agreed that this policy was ideal as it compensated the artist and was practical for administration. A compensation rate of 5% seemed reasonable to the committee. R. Cann suggested that a minimum and maximum payment be considered for the agreement. \$50 and \$2,000 were suggested.

The committee inquired about fine art versus outdoor art. R. Cann explained that commissioned work would be a different agreement than acquired work. The terms for commissioned work would be outlined in the artist's contract, as was the case with *Aquatic Movement*. L. Bell noted issues regarding outdoor art and the fact that it is more accessible to public photography, something that cannot be supervised. The group recognized that this is a factor of outdoor art.

Action: The committee encouraged staff to continue developing a copyright agreement based on the matters reviewed at this meeting.

Acquisition Process – Spirit of St. Catharines

The group reviewed the sculpture and the artist. As a group, committee members completed a Rating System evaluation sheet for the sculpture. The total score was tallied. Based on the committee's assessment the work was accepted into the City's Civic Art Collection.

Action: R. Cann will work with Legal Services to complete the acquisition process with the artist, including a copyright agreement.

Updates

Centennial Park Totem Pole: The Canadian Conservation Institute will be performing tests next week on the Totem Pole using a Resistograph. This will assist in determining the amount of decay and structural quality of the totem pole.

Port Dalhousie Cenotaph: The estimate for repairing the Cenotaph (removing the statue and reattaching it to the plinth) has been delivered. It is expected to cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

St. Catharines Cenotaph: A committee has been formed to discuss the restoration of the Cenotaph. A meeting of this group is scheduled for next week.

10. Review Workplan

Deferred.

11. Reports

Culture Committee – P. Vietgen

The Culture Committee has not met since the last PAAC meeting. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 23, 2011.

Cultural Services – R. Cann

Culture Plan: 8 consultants have submitted responses to the RFP. Interviews are planned for the end of August and the selected consultant should be announced in September.

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy (SCCIP): The deadline for applications is nearing, Friday August 26, 2011.

Trillium Arts Awards: The awards committee has met and will be presenting their recommendations for the awards at the next Culture Committee meeting. The recipients will be informed following the meeting and announced publicly in October.

Arts Centre: The designs are looking good! Executive Director, Steve Solski has begun working with the City.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time

Motion to Adjourn: M. Zuberec **Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:36 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Thursday September 15, 2011 at 4:00pm – Ante Room, 3rd Floor City Hall