



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 20, 2011: 4pm
Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the Committee to J. Cadieux, who is now working in the Cultural Services office as a Culture Coordinator.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday October 20, 2011.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: M. Elliott

Approved.

3. Review of Minutes from Thursday August 18, 2011

These minutes were moved by M. Elliott, seconded by L. Bell and approved via email on Wednesday September 21, 2011.

4. Business Arising

Copyright Agreement: R. Cann reported that the agreement is currently being reviewed by the City of St. Catharines' Legal Department.

Centennial Gardens Poster Installation Concept: R. Cann reported that she has included funds for the project in the Cultural Services 2012 budget. She explained that a partnership with the Niagara Artists Centre (NAC) would be formed. NAC would coordinate the exhibits and facilitate the artist call. Their outreach staff will also work with youth. The City will pay the artists' fees and facilitate any site issues at Centennial Gardens.

5. Correspondence

Letter from Tisha Polocko regarding the Mural Sub-Committee of the Graffiti Committee

L. Bell reviewed the letter that she and S. Remus received in response to their letter. She shared some background regarding past interactions with this committee and the desire to create a bridge between them and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC). R. Cann suggested that two members of PAAC attend the Mural Sub-Committee meetings. L. Bell and S. Merk agreed to be liaisons on the Mural Sub-Committee. It has also been requested that J. Tupling sit on the Mural Sub-Committee as staff from the Cultural Services office. R. Cann is working on a mural report to Council for November, she will request a meeting prior to the completion of this report for information.

Public Art

Exhibits

Theme ideas for 2012 Juried Show: The group discussed the draft themes that were submitted by committee members. They decided to use the idea of the colour red as the focus for the 2012 exhibit.

Action: Staff will update the Call to Artist with the selected theme's information and send to committee for final approval.

Outdoor Art

City Hall Sculpture Program: Deferred.

First Canadians War of 1812 Project: R. Cann reviewed the Report to Council (September 26) with the group. She highlighted the recommendations that involved the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), noting that if the application to the Department of Canadian Heritage is successful and the project moves forward, PAAC will be coordinating the initiative.

Tree Stump Report: The group reviewed the Report to Council (September 26, 2011) and discussed the notion of utilizing tree stumps for carvings. They noted the connection between these works of public art and the mandate of the Public Art Advisory Committee as dictated by the Public Art Policy. The committee considered what their involvement in the initiative c/would be in the future and how it would relate to the diversity of the City's Public Art Collection. The committee inquired about similar artwork that already exists in the City: there is one on public property in Port Dalhousie but at present it is a not part of the City's Art Collection.

Action: Staff will keep the committee informed regarding this subject and the Niagara Region's work on the same topic.

St. Catharines 1812 Public Art: R. Cann explained to the group that the 1812 Steering Committee currently has no large projects planned. She explained that funding may be available if the committee felt that a work of public art commemorating the War of 1812 was warranted. R. Cann provided the group with possible subject matter: the growth of St. Catharines as a result of the war and Richard Pierpoint were some of the suggestions provided by Kathy Powell of the St. Catharines Museum. The committee was very interested in the connection between Richard Pierpont, the War of 1812, the Underground Railroad and St. Catharines Heritage. They also considered the connection to Centennial Park idealistic.

Action: Staff will provide more history on Richard Pierpont and the programs available to support an 1812 Public Art project.

Updates

Nothing at this time.

6. Percent for Art Policy – New Draft

R. Cann updated the committee on the meeting with the City's Capital Projects Manager of the Transportation and Environmental Services department re: the Percent for Art Policy and Capital Projects. She explained that their greatest concern was how this policy would affect their project budgets as well as how the funds would be managed. R. Cann explained the suggested solution of including a line-item in the Cultural Services budget for public art equal to the 1% of eligible capital projects. R. Cann then highlighted items in the draft that still required some discussion, ie maintaining existing Public Art and war memorials. The committee discussed the opportune timeframe for presenting the policy to Council. Further discussion and decisions on these matters will occur at the November meeting.

Action: Committee members will review the draft and provide feedback at the next meeting.

7. Public Art Procurement Process

Deferred. M. Bronson will report on this at the November meeting.

1. Civic Art Collection Presentation to City Council

R. Cann inquired which committee members would be interested in presenting the recent acquisitions to the Civic Art Collection to City Council. L. Bell and S. Merk volunteered to make the presentations and tentatively selected Monday December 5, 2011 for the presentation.

Action: L. Bell and S. Merk will confirm that this date coincides with their schedules. Staff will arrange the presentation for the selected date.

Twinning Artwork

R. Cann explained the background of the proposal to purchase a piece of Trinidadian artwork by artist Sybil Atteck. She explained the Twinning between St. Catharines and Trinidad, and how S. Atteck is connected via her brother, who founded the Society. Staff shared a print of one of her works, a biography of the artist and some photo examples of her work. The committee saw the value of adding a piece of original Trinidadian work to the Civic Art Collection and recognized the importance of S. Atteck as an artist. However, they did not feel that the suggested work was the best example of her career. They were interested in other works that could possibly be acquired.

Action: R. Cann will contact the seller to inquire if other work is available and request a viewing. She will ask if other members of the committee may join her, there was interest by some to attend a viewing.

Updates

Centennial Park Totem Pole: The Canadian Conservation Institute report was returned and stated that the Totem Pole required immediate attention. The Totem Pole must be dried out before the restoration process can begin. This can take one to two years, therefore the Totem Pole should be taken down within a year. Where it will be located during this time is still being considered.

Port Dalhousie Cenotaph: More information will be provided when the report is received.

St. Catharines Cenotaph: More information will be provided when the report is received.

8. Reports

Culture Committee – P. Vietgen

Arts Awards: The awards were presented on October 5, 2011; it was a great event. The Culture Committee has decided to put the awards on hiatus in 2012 so that the Arts Awards Sub-Committee can review the program. They will also be discussing the possibility of permanent recognition for recipients.

Culture Days: The Culture Committee will be investigating the participation of St. Catharines in the 2012 Culture Days.

St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP): The SCCIP Sub-Committee is currently reviewing applications to make their recommendations in November. They received 20 applications to the 2011 program.

Cultural Services – R. Cann

Culture Plan: Meetings with members of the community will be occurring soon. Staff is currently working on the Social Media presence for the plan and schedule for the consultants. They are also working on the Post Card exhibit for the winter and the development of a newsletter. In relation to the plan and outreach associated with it, staff is also continuing work on the asset database required for the process.

Cultural Services Staff: Jason Cadieux has begun working in the Cultural Services office as a Culture Coordinator.

Lakeside Park Carousel: The Carousel is now closed for the season and the restoration process has begun. The Friends have found the change of paint from last year successful and will be continuing with the new paint.

Arts Centre: The designs were presented at a Public Meeting last month: the event was well attended (estimated 300 people). Some changes have been made to the plans since they were presented. The plans are now moving towards a Class B estimate, to evaluate whether the design meets the budget. There will be a presentation to Council in November which will feature a digital model of the centre.

Indo-Asian Film Festival: R. Cann shared a meeting that she had, presenting the idea of hosting and Indo-Asian film festival in St. Catharines. She inquired whether the committee felt that this was a public art opportunity. The committee felt that film installations could be seen as public art but a film festival is an event, and not inclusive if there was an admission fee. Considering these aspects they do not see it as a public art opportunity.

9. Other Business

S. Ritchie reported that the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines are moving forward, more consultations will occur in the coming months and they will be presented to Council in the New Year. He requested that the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines be included on the November agenda so that he may collect feedback from PAAC.

To review the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines visit:

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

Action: Staff will include the Downtown Urban Design Guidelines on the November agenda.

Motion to Adjourn: M. Zuberec **Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:38 p.m.**

Next Meeting: Thursday November 17, 2011 at 4:00pm – Ante Room, 3rd Floor City Hall