



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 16, 2012
4:00pm – 5:30pm
Ante Room – 3rd Floor – City Hall

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

S. Remus welcomed committee members and their guest to the February meeting. He introduced the group to Kate Leathers, from the Niagara Artists Centre.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday February 16, 2012.

Moved: P. Vietgen **Seconded:** S. Merk **Approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday January 19, 2012

Moved: S. Merk **Seconded:** P. Vietgen **Approved.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

S. Ritchie announced that City Council approved the Downtown Design Guidelines on January 23, 2012 and thanked everyone for the feedback they provided during the process. He explained that the next steps will be to begin implementation of the guidelines and start working on the next set of design guidelines for St. Catharines.

5. Correspondence

a. Nomination for the City of St. Catharines Volunteer Award

The group discussed possible nominations from the committee. P. Vietgen nominated S. Remus for the 2012 awards. The committee agreed that this was a worthy nomination.

Action: P. Vietgen will complete the nomination for S. Remus

6. Niagara Artists Centre's Presentation of Niagara HERE

S. Remus declared a conflict of interest for this matter and R. Cann temporarily chaired the meeting.

K. Leathers presented the Niagara HERE project to the Public Art Advisory Committee. NAC will be selecting 40 artists to develop digital art experiences related to sites across Niagara that would then be viewable on ped's through QR codes. The codes will be on signage located at specific sites, and seven City sites have been identified for the project. NAC is requesting permission to install signs at these sites when the project is ready for launching. R. Cann noted that a similar public art project on City sites is [UthInk](#). The committee inquired about content that may not be suitable to all ages. K. Leathers explained that no formal policy has been created, and NAC may consider including an opt-in screen warning of explicit content if warranted. She also explained that the project will occur in two phases with the first starting in June, also outlining that the costs, maintenance and installation of the signs would be handled by NAC. K. Leather assured that NAC will abide by all City of St. Catharines by-laws and invited a member of PAAC to participate in the jury selection for the St. Catharines sites.

Motion: To accept the Niagara Artist Centre's proposal for the public art project Niagara HERE using City of St. Catharines sites and staff assistance, and welcome the invitation to join the selection jury.

Moved: M. Zuberec

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Approved.

7. Development of Public Art Procurement Process

M. Bronson distributed a summary of what was discussed at the last meeting as well as topics for discussion. The group reviewed the idea of an open call to artists for the purchasing of their work. M. Bronson drew their attention to the program from the City of St. John's and the group felt that this was something worth adopting. They discussed the difference between buying from an artist and from a third party (dealer). There was also a discussion regarding the budget and how the process would occur in St. Catharines. The group discussed appraisals of artwork and who would be responsible for acquisition recommendations. M. Bronson asked the group to review the list of future topics for discussion at the next meeting.

8. Review the Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

R. Cann shared and reviewed a draft review process with the group. She described how the Culture Committee completed a similar process in 2010 when they updated their Terms of Reference. The committee agreed to move forward with the process as presented. The steps of this process will be included in agendas for upcoming meetings as required.

9. Public Art Initiatives

a. City Hall Exhibits

R. Cann reported that the City Hall exhibit will be changed within the following week to the Culture Plan exhibit. Staff will be attending City of St. Catharines Family Day activities to collect more postcards and engage with the community.

b. Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art

R. Cann discussed the project and the challenges that occurred as the original wall intended for the mural is no longer considered suitable. She shared imagery with the committee to examine the changes more closely and confirmed that a new site has been selected. R. Cann noted that this has been a learning experience for future public art projects in new builds.

c. City Hall Sculpture Program – Deferred

R. Cann hopes to finalize the Call for Submissions in the next week. She will share with the committee via email once the final is available.

d. 1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint

R. Cann shared the 1812 Commemoration Fund information with the group. At this time the most important decisions to be made regarding the project are: site selection, type of artwork and budget. She stated that staff will complete the form with direction from the committee on these matters. S. Merk, P. Vietgen, S. Ritchie and L. Bell all agreed to assist with this process. Staff also shared an upcoming lecture at Brock University that will be looking at Richard Pierpoint and the Colour Corp's involvement in the War of 1812.

e. Centennial Gardens exhibit

R. Cann reported that discussions have begun with the Niagara Artists Centre regarding the project. S. Remus noted that a draft call to artists has been created and will be presented to the Public Art Advisory Committee in the near future. She will also be discussing the project more with the City of St. Catharines parks department.

Action: Staff will distribute the draft call to artists once it is available.

10. Art Collection

a. Collection Updates

R. Cann reported on a meeting that she recently had with Jaynane Burning-Fields of the Niagara Regional Native Centre. They discussed the Doug Cranmer Totem Pole and possible public art projects involving native art. J. Burning-Fields noted that the Centre is respecting the heritage of totems and in keeping with this they have decided that eventually they will lay their Totem Pole on the ground, returning it to the earth naturally. She suggested this might be the way to serve the Cranmer Totem Pole. On the subject of other public art initiatives with Native content she suggested residential schools and their relation to the Niagara native community as a potential subject as it has great resonance with the local community and most people are unaware of how many Niagara residents have been affected by this piece of Canadian history.

- b. Twinning Artwork – Photos from Visit**
(Defer until March 15, 2012 meeting)

11. Reports

a. Culture Committee – P. Vietgen

P. Vietgen reported that the bulk of the last Culture Committee meeting was updates from other committees and subcommittees.

b. Joint Mural Task Force – S. Merk

S. Merk reported that the group has been discussing the definition of the mural program, the number of murals to be completed each year and how they would be funded. They discussed whether murals would be site specific or not. They have agreed to develop two programs, one for public buildings and one for private endeavours. They reviewed their relationship with other City of St. Catharines committees and policies.

c. Cultural Services – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that Kelly Dell has left the Cultural Services staff and the position will not be re-filled. The residents' survey for the Culture Plan is now available online. R. Cann discussed two reports to Council that she has been working on: one regarding signing an agreement with the Niagara Region for the Cultural Capitals of Canada funding, which is going to Council on February 27, 2012; and another on murals, tbd when that will go to Council. R. Cann discussed the research and work she has completed regarding the framing of Naoko Matsubara's work for the Kiwanis Aquatic Centre. Three quotes will be required for the process and she is collecting these from three specific sources; the Toronto-based framers who completed the framing of Naoko's work in Oakville and two St. Catharines' based framers.

Action: Staff will share a link to the residents' survey with the Committee.

12. Other Business

S. Remus shared information with the group regarding a pilot project being developed for downtown St. Catharines that would have vinyl images installed in empty store fronts. The Niagara Artists Centre is working with five locations at this time and is looking into the future of the project including the possibility for mixed disciplines and funding.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of February 16, 2012.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:45 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday March 15, 2012 – 4:00pm – Committee Room 1, City Hall

Red Jury: Thursday March 15, 2012 – 6:00pm – Committee Room 1, City Hall