

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 19, 2012

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Ante Room – 3rd Floor – City Hall

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the group to the meeting's guest.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday April 19, 2012.

Moved: S. Remus **Seconded:** S. Merk **Approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday March 15, 2012 with a spelling correction in item 8d.

Moved: M. Zuberec **Seconded:** S. Merk **Approved.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

All items are addressed in the agenda.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence at this time.

6. Community Public Art Initiatives

a. First Canadian Sculpture

R. Cann explained to the group what was required today was identification of appropriate sites for the project. She shared with the group a list of locations identified as options. The group reviewed the issues and importunities for each.

The future Performing Arts Centre – there is insufficient sidewalk space to allow for a sculpture out front as the facility must accommodate audiences of over 1400 people on occasion. The facility was considered incompatible for an historic monument given its program focus is contemporary performing arts.

Montebello Park – is a heritage park. A major art installation is contrary to the original plans by Frederick Law Olmstead. The park has no direct historic relevance to the project's subject matter.

City Hall – would relate to the general concept of “founding communities.” City Hall has more connection to contemporary governance and the growth of the City today, which makes it less compatible to the project. The site already has on art installations and two war memorials. Ideally the artwork would be placed somewhere that currently lacks art or cultural property.

St. Catharines Museum – the site is not directly historically related although it's very close to Beaverdams Park in Thorold. Could this be perceived as a conflict? A number of artifacts are already sited in the Discovery Park, which could make siting awkward due to the amount of pre-existing visual stimulus. The outdoor area around the Museum is focused primarily on the Canal.

Gateway at St. Paul and Ontario Streets – is close to the First and Second Welland Canals and the heart of what once was Shipman's Corner, which is historically relevant to the project theme. This site has been identified for future development, which may not support a major installation on site.

End of new Burgoyne Bridge – site has historic links to Shipman's Corner and the Canals. Artwork could be installed at the end of the new bridge although final installation could not take place until after the bridge was completed – likely in 2015.

Rotary Park – located in the south end. The Laura Secord trail is connected to this park. There is a connection to Brock University and the Power Glen Heritage District. Currently there is no public art in the south end of the city: this could be an opportunity to include some. The park is recently open and going through a transformation. There is a strong community in this area that would be engaged in the project. Visitors to the park can see or walk the landscape Laura Secord would have traversed 200 years ago, offering an authentic connection to the history lived by the project's subjects.

Centennial Gardens – Is related to the history of the First Welland Canal and Shipman's Corner. There is community activity in the area of the community gardens. There is less traffic in the core of the park. There is a new temporary exhibit being installed this summer at the site of the Doug Cranmer Totem Pole. The Doug Cranmer Totem Pole is under review.

Motion: The only two sites viable for the location of the First Canadians Sculpture project are Rotary Park and Centennial Gardens.

Moved: S. Remus **Seconded:** M. Zuberec **Approved.**

b. Port Dalhousie Mural

R. Cann reported that a letter has been sent to the Port Dalhousie Conservancy with regard to the feedback provided at the March PAAC meeting.

Action: R. Cann will share the letter with the Committee.

7. Public Art Initiatives

a. City Hall Exhibits

R. Cann reported that the juried exhibit – **Red: An Exploration of the Most Primary of Colours** will be hung next week at City Hall. She reminded the Committee of the opening on Thursday April 26, 2012 – 4:00pm in the exhibit space – all are welcome!

b. Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art

i. Formal acquisition of Jeux d'eau/ Games of Water

R. Cann announced that a framer has been contracted he has collected the work from the artist's studio. She reported that she recently accompanied the framer on a site visit to get better knowledge of the site and material utilized. The work still requires acquisition into the art collection as per the guidelines of the Public Art Policy.

c. City Hall Sculpture Program

R. Cann announced that the call for Expression of Interest has been released and to-date there have been 35 EOI Takers registered. She explained that this does not mean this many works will be submitted –these are people interested in exploring the call. She inquired if anyone was interested in participating in the jury process, M. Zuberec volunteered. The group inquired about having a sculptor on the jury. R. Cann agreed that this was a solid idea and will consider possible candidates that have not responded to the ROI closer to the date.

Action: Staff will share the timeframe and commitment required for the sculpture jury with the Committee for consideration.

d. 1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint

J. Tupling reported that S. Richie contacted her with more information regarding the site at Race Street. The site is to be utilized for staging during the construction of the Performing Arts Centre. This means that it will be unavailable for Public Art until 2015. This still works within the timeline of the War of 1812 and the history of Richard Pierpoint. It also means that the site will require redevelopment after construction, a great opportunity to repurpose and enhance the space. This timeline is also more manageable when considering the workload of the committee and staff. Some further project planning information is required to begin the process of seeking funding.

Action: Research will continue into sites and Richard Pierpoint. J. Tupling will also collect examples of Public Art that could inspire and complement the project.

e. Centennial Gardens Exhibit

R. Cann reported that the call for submission went out today via email, Twitter and Facebook. The exhibit is titled **emblemata** and is on the Niagara Artists Centre's website – a link to it has been added to the City of St. Catharines' homepage. The Committee is encouraged to share the call.

f. Downtown Performing Arts Centre Public Art

Deferred.

8. Development of Public Art Procurement Process - Deferred

9. Review the Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

a. Review work of Committee to date (2003 to 2012)

R. Cann shared with the group a brief outline of the work completed by the Public Art Advisory Committee since 2003, less the years 2007 - 2009. The group provided more material. Staff will continue to update this document and send it back to the committee for the next meeting.

Action: Committee members will provide feedback/additions to the document. Staff will update and send it to the Committee.

b. Review Public Art Policy and role of PAAC in it, and with relation to it.

Deferred.

10. Art Collection

a. Collection Updates

R. Cann reported that the grant application for the repairs to the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph has been submitted. She has also been conversing with a representative of the Port Dalhousie Legion and they have \$10,000 of Poppy sales revenue earmarked for the Cenotaph's repair as well. R. Cann explained the research and information that she has received regarding the repair of lead-lettering. She expressed that there is some environmental concerns with cleaning lead letters as the oxidation will reoccur and the cleaning process emits particles of lead into the atmosphere. She is seeking multiple opinions from consultants. The group inquired about information from Federal agencies, and R. Cann will follow up. She reported that research is also underway on specifications for re-patination and waxing of bronze sculptures so a Request for Proposal can be released for this summer for William Hamilton Merritt and The Spirit of St. Catharines.

b. Twinning Artwork – Photos from Visit – Deferred

11. Reports

a. Culture Committee – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that the Culture Committee has made a recommendation to present the Culture Builds Community program (CBC) for the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) to Council. This new program is to replace the Artist in the Community Program in the 2012 SCCIP program. The Culture Committee has reviewed a Festivals and Events program which may also become part of the SCCIP programming. The program would provide a \$39,700 investment from the Tourism department into local festivals and events. R. Cann reported that the Arts Awards subcommittee is working on the awards program review while beginning plans for a 2013 event. They have outlined six possible awards to be presented during the event. She suggested that PAAC could consider a Public Art award if they see value to it.

Action: That PAAC consider the possibility of a public arts award and put this request forward to the Culture Committee for consideration in the new awards program.

b. Joint Mural Task Force – L. Bell

L. Bell reported that the group has been discussing potential location considerations for murals. They are meeting next week.

c. Cultural Services – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that a powerpoint has been delivered from the consultants titled The State of Culture Report. The Culture Plan Committee is dialoging about the presentation along with staff. She explained that it is expansive and they are deciding how to share it with the community. R. Cann explained that she and Jason Cadieux hosted a Culture Plan Café at Strega, the first in a series of cafés to discuss matters from the Culture Plan – the first topic was SCCIP and there was a greater than expected turn-out. Cultural Services has also released the first edition of Culture Ink a digital replacement for Culture News: members of PAAC were included in the electronic mailing. She also reported that as part of the Cultural Capitals of Canada 2012 Program the Region is supporting a Niagara Night of Art (much like the James Street Night of Art) in each municipality. The St. Catharines Downtown Association has stepped forward to coordinate the event as Cultural Services does not have the resources at this time - staff is assisting. R. Cann reported that Recreation and Community Services has completed its restructuring and at this point the Culture Coordinators will remain on contract for the next three years until the staffing requirements of the Performing Arts Centre are reviewed.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of April 19, 2012.

Moved: M. Bronson

Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:42 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday May 17, 2012 – 4:00pm – Ante Room, City Hall