

# **Public Art Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday June 21, 2012

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Committee Room 1 – 3rd Floor – City Hall

**Present:** Lesley Bell (Co-Chair), Marcie Bronson, Councillor Mark Elliott, Sandra Merk, Stephen Remus (Co-Chair), Michael Zuberec

**Regrets:** Peter Vietgen

**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Emma German, Scott Ritchie, Jennifer Tupling

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting. R. Cann introduced the group to E. German the Curatorial Assistant who will be working with the Cultural Services office throughout the summer.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** To approve the agenda for Thursday June 21, 2012.

**Moved:** S. Merk

**Seconded:** S. Remus

**Approved.**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To approve the meeting minutes from Thursday April 19, 2012.

**Moved:** M. Zuberec

**Seconded:** S. Remus

**Approved.**

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **a. PAAC Award for Arts Award**

R. Cann asked if the group had considered the option to include a Public Art Award in the new program for the Arts Awards. The group felt that there was no requirement for such activity at this time considering the infancy of public art in St. Catharines. It may be something for consideration in the future.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### **a. Carnegie Library Remnants**

The group reviewed the email from Councillor Mat Siscoe and the St. Catharines Heritage Committee regarding utilizing the Carnegie Library remnants for public art. The committee discussed the heritage of these elements and how they have been used. The group agreed to take the idea under advisement and that this may be something for the future. However, the committee has a full agenda of projects for this year.

The group did wish to collect more information regarding the intent of the project and what the Heritage Committee is open to undertaking, i.e. could an artist cut the pieces up? They considered the idea of sourcing an artist that would complement the concept rather than holding a competition, and

discussed the idea of pulling more remnants together to expand the work's possibilities. The committee wishes to keep it on the agenda moving forward.

**Action:** Include this topic on the next meeting agenda.

## **6. Community Public Art Initiatives**

### **a. First Canadians (Les Allies – 1812 - The Allies)**

R. Cann discussed the recent staff report requested by Council. She updated the committee on how the project has progressed since the last meeting including a meeting held with Club La Salle representatives earlier that day.

R. Cann reported that the potential partnership roles have been outlined for discussion. As part of these recommendations, City staff would administer the Call to Artists and the selection process. The jury will consist of two members or their representatives, of the Public Art Advisory Committee, two representatives from Club LaSalle and two representatives from the Niagara Regional Native Centre. At least one rep from Club LaSalle and ideally one from the Native Centre must have an artistic or design background.

R. Cann presented an evaluation matrix to the group regarding the three identified sites for the work. She noted the use of evaluation criteria from the Public Art Policy and requested the group's input on the descriptions. R. Cann noted that Club LaSalle's site preference is the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, as they feel it is the most active site and therefore the work will have more visibility. She explained that the preferred site locations of Club LaSalle and the Public Art Council will be presented to City Council to make the final selection.

The group discussed the site matrix and did not agree with the statement that the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre relates to the subject matter because of its close proximity to Thorold and the Battle of Beaverdams site. They noted that Rotary Park was closer to this site geographically. They felt that the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre is a centre of historic resources for the City but this is its only major significance to the project's theme.

The Committee noted that the expectation that the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre will result in more visibility for the project could be ill conceived. They agreed that at present there is more foot traffic at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, however, visitors are over stimulated by other activities at the Museum and the artwork is more likely to get overlooked as a result. They felt here is an opportunity to create a focus at Rotary Park, and create its own traffic and attention. The work will be highlighted in Rotary Park and there is a chance to engage those that visit there more than there is at the Museum. A core rational of public art is that it creates a sense of place, which this work would do in Rotary Park. They felt

that the pastoral setting of Rotary Park complements the theme of the work more so than the industrial locale of the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre.

The Committee presented the idea of tasking the Artist Selection Team with the selection of the site considering the relationship to the final installation. R. Cann asked which members of the Public Art Advisory Committee would volunteer to join the Artist Selection Team. S. Remus will be joining the group and the Committee made a recommendation for another representative that will be confirmed later.

The Public Art Advisory Committee decided to uphold the motion that was approved at their April 19, 2012 meeting, as repeated below:

**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 the Port Dalhousie Conservancy was not awarded the funding that they had requested. Therefore the project has been cancelled.

**7. Public Art Initiatives**

**a. City Hall Exhibits**

J. Tupling reported on a possible partnership exhibit with the Niagara Region to be displayed in the Fall. The exhibit would feature images from the Cultural Capitals 2012 programming. She has been discussing the idea with Region representatives and will report more via email. The committee was supportive of the concept.

R. Cann reported that E. German will be developing a new installation for the hallway outside the Mayor's office, currently a display of John G. Williams works. The new exhibit will highlight the relationship between the City of St. Catharines and Brock University. E. German has just begun work on this project and will provide more information at the next committee meeting.

**b. Kiwanis Aquatic Centre Public Art**

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

R. Cann informed the committee that a formal acceptance of **Jeux d'eau/ Games of Water** is required to complete the acquisition process. The group discussed the work based on the Public Art Policy's Rating System for Public Art.

**Motion:** That the Public Art Advisory Committee formally accepts Naoko Matsubara's artwork entitled **Jeux d'eau/ Games of Water** into the City of St. Catharines' Civic Art Collection as it meets the term of the commission.

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

**c. City Hall Sculpture Program**

R. Cann reported that the selection jury has been arranged and meetings are scheduled for selection of the work. She announced that Stuart Reid of Rodman Hall has accepted an invitation to participate as a member of the jury. R. Cann stated that there have been 40 registrations to the Expression of Interest, but this does not reflect the number of submissions that may be received.

**d. 1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint**

Nothing to report at this time.

**e. Centennial Gardens (emblemata) Exhibit**

J. Tupling reported that the Call for Artists was extended and has now closed with 13 submissions. E. German, Ryan Rivando of the Niagara Artists Centre and J. Tupling will be meeting the following week to jury the works. R. Cann inquired if any committee members wished to participate. M. Bronson volunteered to join the group.

**f. Downtown Performing Arts Centre Public Art - Deferred.**

**8. Development of Public Art Procurement Process**

M. Bronson shared the latest draft of the City of St. Catharines Art Collection document with the group. She explained the flowchart created to clearly depict the elements of the Public Art Policy and the terms utilized. M. Bronson went on to solicit feedback from the committee regarding particular topics within the document. They provided her with specifics for these matters. M. Bronson will make these updates to the document and continue work on it throughout the summer, to present at the next committee meeting.

**9. Review the Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**

- Role of PAAC in work to date – Deferred
- Review role of PAAC as described in Public Art Policy – Deferred

**10. Art Collection**

**a. Shortlist Acquisition from RED**

Due to insufficient time in the meeting to complete this item the Committee agreed to complete the process via email. S. Remus and M. Elliott declared conflicts of interest. They will not be participating in the process.

**Action:** Committee members will email their top 3 selections for acquisition to J. Tupling in the next week and she will continue the process from this point.

**b. Collection Updates**

R. Cann announced that the grant for the repairs to the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph has been approved for \$6,000. The process for restoring the monument will be moving forward in the next while.

R. Cann reported that the Cultural Services office was contacted by Calvin Hunt, the nephew of Centennial Park Totem Pole carver Doug Cranmer. He is interested in the City's plan for the totem pole and Cultural Services are inspired by this connection moving forward.

R. Cann also reported that the Anteroom will be undergoing renovations throughout the summer. As a result Cultural Services staff has removed the Twinning Society items from the space and placed them in storage until work is complete. The Twinning Society will be contacted regarding this.

**c. Twinning Artwork – Photos from Visit – Deferred**

**11. Reports**

**a. Culture Committee – R. Cann**

R. Cann stated that Culture Committee material will be discussed in her Cultural Services report.

**b. Joint Mural Task Force – S. Merk**

S. Merk reported that the group has been discussing the difference between the Municipal and Private mural program. At their last meeting they did a comparison for each. They have better knowledge of the funds available and will be working on an outline for the allocation of these. S. Merk also reported that they have identified priority locations on City sites for future murals and they hope to have a general program draft at their next meeting.

**c. Cultural Services – R. Cann**

R. Cann reported that material for the 2012 St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program will be out within the coming weeks. Also the Arts Awards program is moving forward to its final new shape.

She announced that the selection process for a web designer to complete the Culture in Niagara project has concluded and the chosen firm will be announced once contracts are finalized. Everyone involved is very excited.

She reported on the Culture Plan renewal process: the next Culture Café is scheduled for Wednesday June 27 at the Irresistible Bean on St. Paul Street starting at 4:30pm. The topic of discussion is The Public Realm and Culture's role in its development: Heritage, Public Art and more. She encouraged members of the committee to attend as it's related to their focus.

## **12. Other Business**

### **a. Summer Schedule**

R. Cann inquired about the group's desire to maintain the meeting schedule as-is or take a break in July for the summer. The Committee decided to cancel the July meeting and meet again in August as planned. Some material will be discussed via email during this time.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of June 21, 2012.

**Moved:** M. Zuberec **Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:46 pm

**Next Meeting:** Thursday August 16, 2012 – 4:00pm – Committee Room 1, City Hall