

Public Art Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 18, 2012
4:00pm – 5:30pm
Anteroom – 3rd Floor – City Hall

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

L. Bell welcomed everyone to the October meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for Thursday October 18, 2012.

Moved: M. Elliott **Seconded:** M. Zuberec **Approved.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes, with grammatical edits, from Wednesday September 16, 2012.

Moved: M. Elliott **Seconded:** M. Zuberec **Approved.**

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Collections Update

A date has not been arranged for the committee presentation to Council. When one is selected the committee will be notified via email.

1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint

L. Bell has information discussed with at the last meeting with her. She will share during this agenda topic later in the meeting.

5. Correspondence

2013 Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts

J. Tupling shared nomination information with the committee for the 2013 Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The committee discussed the activities of St. Catharines' arts organizations throughout the year. They agreed that the scope of public work presented by the Niagara Artists Centre (Emblemata, Niagara HERE etc.) and the increase in artist activity (more than \$100,000 in artists' fees distributed) made them excellent candidates for the award. They suggested that S. Merk draft the nomination for submission.

6. Community Public Art Initiatives

a. Les Alliés – 1812 - The Allies (formerly First Canadians)

R. Cann reported that Club LaSalle was not granted the funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage. At this time the project is on-hold while Club LaSalle considers alternative options for the project, which may include continuing on a reduced scale. City staff plans to meet with them in the next couple weeks, any decision made will require a Report to Council. In the meantime the Selection Team is also on-hold and those artists that submitted pre-qualifications will be notified of the change in project.

7. Public Art Initiatives

a. City Hall Exhibits

i. City Hall Exhibits

The next exhibit at City Hall will be the joint photo exhibit with the Niagara Region displaying images from the Cultural Capitals of Canada program. This will be hung in November.

ii. 2013 Juried Exhibit – Finalize Theme

J. Tupling shared a draft of the Call to Artists and highlighted some of the application changes that were suggested earlier. The group discussed these edits and other matters related to the jury process. S. Remus will continue work on the draft call and it will be shared via email. The target is to have it released by the end of October.

Action: S. Remus will work on the draft Call to Artists to be approved by the committee via email, before the next meeting.

b. City Hall Sculpture Program

R. Cann reported that Laura Moore has installed **Kernel Memory** on the lawn of City Hall. Staff is working on signage to install at the site and an artist-talk will most likely be arranged for the New Year. The group collectively discussed the community reaction that they have observed related to the installation of the work.

c. 1812 Public Art - Richard Pierpoint

L. Bell discussed some of the notes on Richard Pierpoint that she had collected. This included an approximation of where the Pierpoint homestead was located, near the area of Oakdale Ave. and Westchester Cres. The group discussed this area of St. Catharines, its connection to Centennial Gardens, Downtown and Merritton. They also considered the partnerships opportunities with other committees of Council, especially the Black History Museum committee as they may have more information on Pierpoint and his connection to St. Catharines. The committee discussed the amount of focus and activity at Centennial Gardens and decided to re-locate their November meeting to the park so that they could discuss all the public art matters on-site.

Action: J. Tupling will pull homestead information from L. Bell's material and share with the committee via email.

d. Centennial Gardens (emblemata) Exhibit

R. Cann reported that the exhibit was celebrated as part of the 3rd Annual Heritage Festival. She outlined the challenges from the first time project and acknowledged that it was a great learning experience for those involved. She also reported that there are funds in the 2013 budget to continue the project in whatever capacity the committee wishes. S. Remus provided suggestions for the following year, including other possible methods for hanging the project. He also inquired as to the future of the park. Staff shared the information they knew regarding the revitalization of Centennial Gardens. The committee briefly discussed how public art could be integrated into these plans and the park. This is something they wish to continue discussion on.

e. Downtown Performing Arts Centre Public Art – Deferred

f. Spectator Facility Public Art – Deferred

8. Art Collection

a. Collection Updates

i. Cenotaphs

R. Cann reported that it has been determined that the core of the St. Catharines Cenotaph is in good shape. It is projected that the total cost of restoration will be \$60,000 to \$70,000 – less than originally estimated. All the restoration work will not be completed by Remembrance Day but the Cenotaph will be reassembled in time for the ceremony. R. Cann explained the scope of work that will be completed in the next couple months. The committee inquired about the work to improve the accessibility at the site. R. Cann explained that the Access Report is not yet complete and once it is there will be a better overview of the project.

R. Cann also reported that quotes have been received and are currently being reviewed for the work on the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph. This project is also moving forward.

ii. Other

Nothing at this time.

b. Twinning Artwork – Photos from Visit – Deferred

9. Development of Public Art Procurement Process – Deferred

10. Review the Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- **Role of PAAC in work to date**

R. Cann asked the group to continue their discussion from the last meeting regarding what they consider as their most meaningful contributions to date. They discussed the City Hall Exhibit Program and how it has created artistic activity at the building while providing opportunities for local artists of all skill levels. They also discussed the work worth the collection, its development and its maintenance. They considered the possibility of developing a sub-committee that would focus on the collection. The group also discussed their role and the role of City staff in the collection. They felt it best if the committee oversaw the policies and structure of the collection. City staff would enact the work of the committee and deal with matters of maintenance. M. Elliott highlighted the fact that Council is now arms-length in the selection of public art.

The committee also regarded their work shepherding projects in the community as a meaningful contribution and something they hope to expand in the future. They also discussed how such projects have led to artists being compensated for their work utilizing industry pay rates. This has helped to educate the community and artists that art is not free. They considered that the value of art is expanding both monetarily and through meaningful experience. There is a growth of response to the art created and presented in St. Catharines, as well as a physical growth in the art experiences available.

The group then considered what they would like to accomplish in the future. A focus was on the enactment of the Percent for Art Policy and growth of public art project budgets. They also looked forward to the completion of the Procurement Policy for the development of the Civic Art Collection. S. Remus presented the idea of a community fund available for public art that people could donate to and/or a charitable foundation (i.e. Niagara Community Foundation) that would maintain a public art fund for corporate giving.

S. Remus also discussed the desire to continue the growth of dialog regarding public art. He also expressed the desire to expand and stimulate the community's reaction to public art, possibly through the creation of reactive projects. L. Bell presented the idea of growing the diversity of projects developed and their content. She also spoke about the idea of increasing the community's knowledge of public art through educational opportunities. This led to a discussion about creating opportunities for the committee to partner with other arts organization in St. Catharines to educate the community further about public art - cultivating more discussions and growing dialog.

- **Review role of PAAC as described in Public Art Policy**

The group briefly looked at the description and agreed that the committee composition was still relevant, with the inclusion of a staff representative from

both Rodman Hall and the Niagara Artists Centre. They also agreed that it was best to keep the committee at its current membership size and create sub-committees for individual projects, these would include outside members with a more focus connection or specialty to the project.

11. Reports

a. Culture Committee – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that the SCCIP sub-committee is in the middle of the review process and will be presenting their recommendations for funding to the Culture Committee at their next meeting. She also explained that the Arts Awards sub-committee is currently working through the awards program. She also outlined the process and focus that they are utilizing for the creating of the physical awards that will be presented to recipients. The Public Art Advisory Committee expressed interest in assisting with the award conception process. R. Cann will forward this to the Culture Committee members.

b. Joint Mural Task Force – S. Merk

The group has not met since the last meeting.

c. Cultural Services – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that cNiagara.ca has now been beta-launched. The response has been strong on both the site and social media. Workshops for users will be held in the next couple weeks and staff is available to assist as needed. She encouraged everyone to visit the site, share it and start utilizing it for their events. R. Cann also reported that a charrette for the Culture Plan is being held with the consultants this week. She thanked those committee members that will be attending for their participation.

12. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of Thursday October 18, 2012.

Moved: M. Bronson

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 5:40 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday November 15, 2012 – 4:00pm, Centennial Gardens