

Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Via Zoom at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Ayo Adewumi, Susan Ashukian, Catherine Chin Yet, Stephen Remus, Michael Zuberec, Coun. Carlos Garcia

Absent:

Justus Duntsch, Mark Roe

Staff:

Michelle Nicholls, Noora Rizvi

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

4:07 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Middleton acknowledged that the land on which the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

N. Rizvi noted that under Item 9.5 Other Business, PAAC would discuss the relocation of a piece of outdoor public art, as well as an update about a City beautification initiative regarding an art wall.

M. Nicholls noted that under Item 9.3 Public Art Programming she would provide an exhibits update.

4. Motion to approve the agenda for September 14, 2021, as amended

Moved: C. Chin Yet

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of August 5, 2021

Moved: C. Chin Yet

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Presentations (invited guests)

None

8. Business arising from the minutes

None

9. Business

a. 9.1 Civic Art Collection Report

i. Donation – Jon Shaw Prints

Two Jon Shaw prints were presented to the Culture Office for donation. However, the entire PAAC must provide scores for the acquisition and, since some scores were outstanding, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

Motion to accept report: M. Zuberek

Carried

b. 9.2 Committee Work Plan Report

i. Sculpture Garden – Update

A subcommittee was struck to undertake research for a Sculpture Garden. S. Ashukian noted that municipal comparators were researched, and many other sculpture gardens were created as a result of collaboration between the municipality, a public art gallery and sometimes a university. This type of approach may not work for St. Catharines and now the focus is on next steps.

Discussion ensued, including the idea that the Rodman Hall Art Centre, Inc. (RHAC, Inc.) 20-year loan of six sculptures to the City could be incorporated and perhaps become a sculpture walk in the downtown core instead of a garden. The committee agreed that once more information becomes available in the coming weeks they will revisit this idea.

Motion to accept report: S. Remus

Carried

c. 9.3 Public Art Programming Report

i. Rodman Hall Public Art Locations

N. Rizvi and members of PAAC walked around downtown to get an idea of suitable locations for the Rodman Hall sculptures.

S. Ashukian presented information about the sculptures including that the City approved an expenditure of \$133,905 to remove, store and eventually relocate the pieces. Additionally, RHAC, Inc. will pay for maintenance, insurance, and related programming.

Some areas suggested for re-location included:

- Outside City Hall on either side of the walkway to the main entrance. (50 Church Street)
- Outside the main branch of the St. Catharines Public Library
- Inside the main branch of the St. Catharines Public Library
- In Montebello Park
- At the corner of St. Paul and Geneva streets.
- Outside the FirstOntario PAC

Some issues with various locations include:

- James Street will begin to be redeveloped in the coming year to create civic square.
- The Rose Garden in Montebello park is potentially a designated space and could not accommodate art pieces. Montebello Park is a heritage site, so any alterations would require Heritage Permits.
- There needs to be enough space for Marianne Barkhouse's piece "Settlement" as it includes not only the two sculptures but also a border garden of a specific size and composition (approx. 19.5' x 26')

Discussion followed, with committee members noting that no decisions should be made right now, as there is more work to do with determining the feasibility of suggested locations and more questions to be answered. A suggestion was made that there needs to be a list of sites that have been vetted. S. Remus noted that this is an opportunity to engage with the artists and get their input.

N. Rizvi noted the sculptures would be moved from Rodman Hall in the fall, placed in storage for the winter and installed in spring.

ii. Exhibits Update

Staff provided an update on the recent City Hall exhibit "This Just In", featuring works from past juried art exhibits, as well as the upcoming juried exhibit "The Art of Resilience".

Motion to accept report: C. Chin Yet

Carried

d. 9.4 Report from Cultural Services Office – M. Nicholls / N. Rizvi

- N. Rizvi introduced herself to PAAC.
- The SCCIP recommendations from the June 30 ACAC meeting were approved by Council on July 12. This means that, to date, a total of \$315,109 in SCCIP funding has been allocated to artists and arts organizations by Council.

- The next SCCIP deadline is September 23, and is for the Sustaining-Festival Program, as well as the second round of applications to the Arts Development and Culture Builds Community Programs.
- All application materials and the online application portal are currently available at www.stcatharines.ca/SCCIP.
- Culture Days starts next Friday. It will run from September 24 to October 24 this year. The City has funded a number of activities that will be taking place both in-person and online throughout the month. All activities are free. Visit www.stcatharines.ca/culturedays for more information.
- Arts Awards nominees have been announced – there are 18 nominees in 5 different categories. The awards ceremony will be held virtually on Sunday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m., in partnership with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. For details – including a list of the nominees – please visit www.stcatharines.ca/artsawards.
- Please follow the Culture Office on social media for the most up-to-date information.

Motion to accept report: S. Remus

Carried

e. 9.5 Other Business

i. Update on Niagara Artists Centre (NAC) – S. Remus

In August, NAC did 28 events in 21 days, including running 5 simultaneous events. The Papa Tee showmobile will be running this weekend with more events, plus films on the roof deck in the coming weeks. Up-to-date info can be found on social media.

ii. Update on Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi

The 27 RFPQ (Request for Pre-Qualification) submissions were evaluated and have been short-listed to the top 7 applicants. These applicants have all been informed that they will be moving to the next stage, which is the NRFP (Negotiated Request for Proposals) and selected applicants have 6 months to fully develop their concepts and re-apply. These proposals will then be reviewed by a selection committee and the top evaluated submission will be submitted to the Task Force for approval. The Task Force has already begun their fundraising campaign and a donation website has already been established:

<https://cityofstcatharines.akaraisin.com/ui/neilpeartmemorial/> The goal is to raise \$1 million dollars.

iii. Update on Fallen Firefighters Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi

The Fallen Firefighters Task Force reviewed the 6 NRFP applicants and met last week to approve the top proposal, selected previously by the evaluation subcommittee. The selected applicant was CFC Supply and the City will move forward to contract them. The next phase will include the Task Force working with the company to formalize the design. As well, the fundraising campaign will begin soon. The goal is to raise \$400,000.

iv. Update on Hydro Box Wrapping – S. Ashukian

The grant offered by Alectra – up to \$5,000 per year for Hydro Box Wrapping – could not be completed this year because the application was due in July. The idea was to put it on the work plan for next year. In the meantime, it was noted that the City's Economic Development (EcDev) Department is interested in doing utility box wrapping as well.

N. Rizvi noted that EcDev would like to work with PAAC, but their focus is more on beautification of the downtown core. Some discussions have begun, and selection of artists would still go through PAAC once funding is confirmed.

v. Outdoor Public Art Relocation – N. Rizvi

"Tribute to Women" is a piece of public art that is part of the City's civic art collection and sits just outside the main branch of the St. Catharines Public Library. The piece of land is being sold to a developer and the piece will need to be moved. The piece includes the sculpture and three surrounding benches. The developer will pay for the removal and re-installation of the piece and so it should be included in discussions about the downtown art walk. The piece will need to be moved in spring 2022 and it would be ideal if it can be re-installed immediately after removal, so that it does not need to be put into storage.

Discussion followed on a percent for art policy and investigating whether projects like this could include having the developer pay specifically for the creation of a piece of public art.

vi. Downtown Art Wall – N. Rizvi

The Rankin Walkway, a walking underpass area under St. Paul Street, is being considered for a mural, living art wall, or a legal graffiti wall. The City is investing in lighting in the area and N. Rizvi noted that options are being investigated to help rehabilitate and beautify the space. PAAC may be engaged if the strategy adopted includes a Call to Artists to commission a new work.

C. Garcia noted that there were discussions during the previous term of PAAC about a Tow Horse statue proposed by the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee along Lock 1 of the Old Welland Canal to commemorate the horses that worked on the canal. It was noted that a portion of funding has been raised already and that the idea is for the final statue to be accepted into the City's Civic Art Collection.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday October 12, 2021

Via Zoom

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Public Art Advisory Committee be adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Moved by: S. Remus

Carried