

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, November 11, 2021

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Brian Narhi
Gail Benjafield
Robert Speck
Holly Washuta
John Crawley
Lorraine Giroux
Mark Hoerd

Regrets:

Andrew Humeniuk
Justin Nicholls

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Planning and Building Services
Tami Kitay, Director, Planning and Building Services

Council:

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

1. **Call meeting to order (Chair)**

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 2:31p.m.

2. **Recognition of Traditional Territories**

Chair Narhi acknowledged that the land which we call St. Catharines and the Niagara region is the ancestral territory of Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This Land is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this Land is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples – who share the land with us. This Land Acknowledgement is a

statement that reminds us that our standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people over many generations.

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

No Additions or Deletions

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: Holly Washuta

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, November 11th, 2021, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Updates from last month’s sub committees’ section, minutes should not state there are no new comments, instead should say there are no new updates.

Motion to approve October 14th minutes as amended

Moved by: John Crawley

“That the SCHAC adopt the minutes of the previous meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021, as amended.”

6. Declarations of Interest

Mark Hoedrt – Item 9.3, Knifeworks Presentation

Mark recused himself from the discussion as he is associated with the Knifeworks skatepark.

7. Presentations (invited guests)

Item 9.1

- Paul Carfagnini, Lakeside Park Carousel

Item 9.2

- Angus Smith & Len Inkster, Heritage Grant Application – 23 Yates Street

Item 9.3

- Michael Graveline, Knifeworks Skatepark

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

8.1 Heritage Wordpress Articles

James Neilson provided an update regarding the Heritage Wordpress Articles. He reached out to Kathleen Powell from the St. Catharines Museum and asked questions regarding whether or not members of the committee can have their articles back. Kathleen agreed, noting the museum does not take ownership of the articles and they can be returned to members. Kathleen also noted if the articles were to be used in the future, the names of all the authors should be put on the articles, and that the articles will not be published at a later date before the appropriate changes are made.

Moved by: Lorraine Giroux

“That the SCHAC receive the update from James Neilson regarding the Heritage Wordpress Articles”

CARRIED

8.2 Chestnut Street/Merritt Street Environmental Assessment

James Neilson reached out to the heritage consultant for the Chestnut Street/Merritt Street Environmental Assessment. The consultant confirmed that they will consider the Canal as part of their work. An invitation to speak to the committee on this subject was offered. James let the Committee know that this is part of a larger public engagement strategy and dates for consultation will be provided once known. Lorraine noted that a presentation from the consultant would be nice to have for an up-to-date overview of the project.

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC receive the update from James Neilson on the Chestnut Street Project”

CARRIED

9. **Business**

9.1 Lakeside Park Carousel

Lori Mambella, Manager of Program and Culture Services with the City of St. Catharines opened up by introducing her colleague, Paul Carfagnini, Manager of Facilities and Energy. At a prior council meeting, a motion was passed for staff to provide a report by the end of the year regarding accessibility to make the carousel more inclusive. Due to external circumstances, the report will not be done on time, but the research has begun. Lori and Paul are asking for support regarding the report with the following questions:

1. What is the Heritage Status/Designation of the Carousel?
2. Does the AODA apply for properties under a Heritage Designation?

Carlos Garcia had worked on this project in the past and gave some guidance on the heritage status as it related to the Heritage District being implemented. James Neilson also provides further insight. Other questions were asked regarding what retrofit work would need to be done to make the carousel fully accessible, and the current/future designation of the carousel.

Motion By: John Crawley

“That the SCHAC receives the presentation made by Lori Mambella and Paul Carfagnini;

And that the SCHAC supports the city’s efforts to improve accessibility at the carousel;

And that the SCHAC should consider the redesignation of the property under part IV of the Heritage Act”

CARRIED

Additional comments

- John Crawley noted the committee should look into all Part IV designations that have not carried over after Part V designations took place. Conversation is tabled for future consideration.

9.2 Heritage Grant Application – 23 Yates Street

Angus Smith is the owner of 23 Yates Street which consists of a 1920s home under a Part V heritage designation. He is asking for a \$5,000 grant as a result of work done on the property. The home has been subject to damage over the past few years and parts of the home were restored. Photos were shown of the issues with the home, including cracked stucco, bulging concrete and parts of the slate roof which were falling off. The owner has recently had these issues fixed and can provide invoices as needed. Questions were asked by the committee regarding the type of materials used for the repair, and the overall budget details.

Motion By: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC approve the grant application for 23 Yates Street for a heritage grant of a \$5,000, pending appropriate completion of the work and the submission of invoices to the City of St. Catharines”

Additional Comments

- Mark Hoerdt noted that progress shots should be a requirement for larger projects that receive funding. James noted that this can be added as a requirement.
- John Crawley also noted that these grants need to be approved before these projects can begin. James noted he will look into this issue and provide an update next meeting. Lorraine Giroux noted the applicant stated that the work needed to start as soon as possible as the conditions were getting worse. John noted the applicant wanted to get this work done before the snow began to fall.

CARRIED

9.3 Knifeworks Skatepark

Michael Graveline spoke about the skatepark that was constructed by members of the community at the Knifeworks site. He explained that last summer members of the community came together to clean up the Knifeworks site. Funds were raised and this resulted in the creation of a small skate park that is now used by members of the community. Due to the closure of the park last summer, the site was contaminated with drug paraphernalia and needed to be cleaned again by the community. Michael acknowledged they were building on city land without the proper permits; however, the space is now being used for a more desirable use within the community. Michael is looking to find some common ground with the city and heritage committee. Michael responded to questions regarding the prior uses of the space, and the rebuilding of the new park. Lorraine noted there is no heritage designation for the space at the current time, though she believed it should have been designated previously. Lorraine and Brian Narhi were pleased with the improvement of the space, although there are still issues regarding graffiti and safety.

Lorraine questioned; in what way would a future designation of the site affect the skate park? Tami Kitay responded that the facility would need to meet municipal standards as the lands are located on city property. It would be up to the direction of council to construct a skateboard or bike facility and to allocate the appropriate resources to fund this project in order to get the space up to municipal guidelines. Then the heritage committee could chime in and give direction as to any heritage designations for the site. Michael noted liability issues are lessened through the cleanup of the site and Tami noted this information would be a part of the decision to be made by council. Mark Hoerdt also added additional information on the site. Brian questioned if the use could continue. Michael noted that cease and desist letters were received in June, however people have continued to come and use the skatepark. Questions arose regarding the timeline for council approval. Tami noted it would be up to a

councilor to bring this issue to the budget discussion meetings, if there is space within the budget for this project.

Motion By: Lorraine Giroux

“That the SCHAC receives the presentation from Michael Graveline regarding the Knifeworks Skatepark”

CARRIED

10. Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No new updates

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

Gail Benjafield informed the committee of the perception that not a lot of people are familiar with the SCHAC and their role in the community. Gail also noted that Heritage week is in mid-February and would love to present something to the public showing the efforts of the SCHAC. Gail outlined a brief information sheet that can be presented to the public outlining the goals of the SCHAC, what they do, who makes up the committee, heritage designations etc. along with links for more information. Gail hopes that putting this short and concise post on the web, will allow more people to understand what this committee does and how they help the public. Lorraine and Brian agree that this type of engagement is necessary to educate the public. Brian noted the passage given needs to be approved by the committee and then sent to communications team for the city. Therefore, the POE committee has requested to create a final updated version of the document to bring to the SCHAC for approval in the following months. Holly asked if there were incentives can be used to encourage businesses and homeowners to remove the stigma of designating their homes as a heritage property.

Motion By: Holly Washuta

“Motion to receive Gai Benjafield’s update on the POE initiative”

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No new updates

11. Information and Correspondence

Gail has received information from a new group working on Rodman Hall which was also received by the City of St. Catharines and can forward the information to anyone on the committee who is interested.

Lorraine wanted to reiterate what John said last meeting that the Welland Canal Facebook page has great resources on historical and current info and suggests the rest of the committee members can take a look as well.

12. Date of next meeting

December 9th, 2021

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Gail Benjafeld

“That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 4:33 pm.”

CARRIED