

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Electronic Participation at 2:31 pm

Members:

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

Regrets:

Justin Nicholls

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services
Michael Seaman, Senior Project Manager, Planning and Building Services
Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator

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

The St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee **Error! I**
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is an Advisory Committee of City Council



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 peoples.

3. **Additions / Deletions to the Agenda**

No Additions or Deletions

James Neilson removed Item 9.1, the update to the Heritage Register. The Item was deferred to next month in order to accommodate a change in the internal process.

4. **Motion to approve the agenda**

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda as amended for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, January 13th, 2022, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

5. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

The phrasing in the minutes of the previous meeting about the Lakeside Park carousel stated “the chairs” in plural, however there was only one chair. Instead, it should state a previous chair rather than a plurality of them.

Moved by: Brian Narhi

“That the SCHAC approve the minutes from the SCHAC Meeting held on December 9, 2022, as amended

CARRIED

6. **Declarations of Interest**

None

7. **Presentations (invited guests)**

No presentations

8. **Business arising from the minutes**

8.1 Lakeside Park Carousel Designation

James Neilson gave a quick overview of the statement of significance for the proposed designation of the Lakeside Park Carousel before introducing Carla Mackie to answer any questions. Councilor Carlos Garcia questioned the historical context, asking is it valuable to mention the history in terms of how the City acquired it and how the City raised money to purchase the carousel from the park owner? Carla responded that this information is included in the final statement. Brian Narhi then inquired if the carousel contained historical wiring. Carla responded stating that it is powered by a current electrical system, however, both the motor and speed controller are original to the carousel. Brian then asked about the life expectancy of the carousel and if the parts are replaceable in the event that the carousel breaks down. Carla responded that the machinery would be repairable as it was built to last and is stored properly. Lorraine Giroux questioned if the Friends of the Carousel have any thoughts about this process. Carla responded that she was not in direct contact with them but suspected that they would be supportive of the Carousel's designation.

Motion By: John Crawley

"That the SCHAC receives the information about the designation of the property under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act from James Neilson and Carla Mackie

And that the SCHAC recommends the designation of the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act."

CARRIED

8.2 Heritage Budget Update

James Neilson gave an update on the funds available to the heritage committee. Councilor Carlos Garcia sought clarification on what carry over meant and if there were any grants given in the past year. James responded that last year just under \$13,000 was granted to property owners and that the funds available to the Committee carry over from not just 2021 but previous years as well. Councilor Garcia suggested that the heritage grant program could be publicized more to increase awareness and proposed publishing a media announcement. Mark Hoerd and Lorraine Giroux supported the Councilor's idea. Lorraine questioned if providing plaques came out of heritage grant program budget. James responded that the grant program is strictly for people to work on their houses, and that plaquing would come out of the heritage committee budget. Brian noted that any plaquing ceremonies, cost of plaques, and promotional material can be printed in house, and that in the past it has come out of the heritage committee's budget.

Carlos suggested that James meet with Communications staff at the City to do a media release on the availability of the grants. Brian added that the information

can be included with the guide to the heritage advisory committee about the POE subcommittee. Gail supported Carlos' idea for a media release from the City. James agreed to speak with communications and stated that it would be a great idea to promote the grant program with heritage week coming up in February. John questioned if these properties have to be in the heritage district or on the register in order to receive a grant. James replied that the properties do have to be designated in either a heritage district or be a part IV designation, and that only being on the register does not make you available for funds. Robert inquired if that precludes properties in the BIA or in the downtown association, like St Paul's Street, King Street, and Queen Street, that are not necessarily in a heritage district. James responded that businesses are eligible for CIP grants, but if any of those properties are designated, then they would be eligible for heritage grants as well. Michael Seaman noted that the City has façade improvement grants through the CIP program that could apply to the restoration of historic buildings within CIP areas such as downtown. Robert questioned if this has been well publicized to the commercial area. Michael responded stating that the program has been around for many years, although there have not been many properties taking advantage of the grants due to the general economic situation.

Motion By: Holly Washuta

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the Heritage Committee Budget and Grant Program budget from James Neilson.

And that the Heritage Grant Program should be included in the POE "Guide to the SCHAC" as part of the Committee's Heritage Week Initiative

And that the SCHAC are requesting a media release form Communications staff to promote both the SCHAC and the Heritage Grant Program"

CARRIED

9. **Business**

9.1 Update to Heritage Register

Item was deferred to next month.

CARRIED

9.2 Update to Delegation By-Law

James Neilson gave a presentation outlining the update to the delegation By-law. Councilor Carlos Garcia questioned if the Heritage Act is clear that the timeline for an application does not start until staff deem the application is complete. James responded that to his knowledge the timeline for the application does not begin until staff deem the application to be complete. Michael Seaman added that the municipality does its best to be careful with submission deadlines, and that generally we will be monitoring the applications and their associated

deadlines as they come in. Carlos commented that there is a significant onus on staff to ensure that applications are consistent without going to the committee. Michael suggested that a summary can be provided about things approved by staff, so that the committee is aware of what staff is doing. James noted that it is staff's intention to err on the side of caution in terms of application approvals and the utilization of the delegation by-law.

Motion By: Andrew Humeniuk

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the proposed updates to the City's Delegation By-Law

And that the SCHAC recommend the proposed updates to the City's Delegation By-Law"

CARRIED

9.3 Toronto Dominion Bank Architectural Columns

Brian Narhi brought the architectural columns from the Toronto Dominion Bank to the committee's attention. Brian noted that the other architectural pieces in Pierpoint Park should be salvaged as they are also historically significant. Prior to the meeting, James Neilson reached out to Phil Cristi, Director of Community, Recreation, and Culture, who stated that there's no current plans for these items and suggested that the committee brainstorm ideas for a location for these items. Brian pointed out the Brown Homestead as being a potential home for the columns. As owner of the property, Andrew Humeniuk mentioned that the plan is to incorporate architectural salvage pieces in the heritage gardens at the Brown Homestead, with accompanying signage that indicates the history of these pieces. Andrew questioned if we do not use the architectural columns locally, should we reach out to the architectural salvage companies around the province? James responded that using the pieces locally is the first priority but if there is no home for these items then that route can be taken.

"That the SCHAC receive the information about the Toronto Dominion Bank architectural columns

And that the remaining items in Pierpoint Park be salvaged,

And that the columns should be protected within a new location following the sale of the property

And that the SCHAC recommends the reuse of architectural columns as part of landscaping in one of the City's parks or within the landscaping of another publicly accessible historical site within the St. Catharines community with appropriate historical interpretation signage"

Motion By: Robert Speck

CARRIED

10. Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

No new updates

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

10.2.1 “Guide to SCHAC” Update

James Neilson noted that there has been a conversation with Communications staff about the document and that the intention is to have a a Heritage Week initiative finalized by the next meeting. James added that he will make edits to the document to incorporate information about the grant program.

“Motion to receive the update from James Neilson.”

Motion By: Gail Benjafield

CARRIED

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No new updates

11. Information and Correspondence

Councilor Carlos Garcia noted that Pam Minns was awarded the Order of Canada. She is responsible for a lot of the heritage work in the region, particularly in Thorold and has always supported St. Catharines. He noted that it is very well deserved and that it is great that we have someone like that in our community.

Gail Benjafield noted that the Historical Society of St. Catharines has an upcoming presentation on January 27, and that it has been noted in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s website. Chair of our heritage committee, Brian Narhi, is giving a talk called “Mills Should be Built Theron: The Hydraulic Raceways of St. Catharines”. The Zoom link can be found on Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Museum website.

Gail also added that the public art and culture committee has lost their coordinator and committee member, and to let them know if you or anyone would like to join.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday February 10th, 2022

13. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC meeting be adjourned at 4:16 pm.”

CARRIED