

Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Ayo Adewumi, Susan Ashukian, Catherine Chin Yet, Justus Düntsch

Absent:

Niagara Artists Centre Representative, Mark Roe, Michael Zuberec

Guests:

Coun. Carlos Garcia, Scott Ritchie

Staff:

Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Noora Rizvi

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

5:06 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Ashukian acknowledged that the land on which the Public Art 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, Métis, 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

Under Item 7 – Presentations (invited guests): Scott Richie, Urban Design Planner with Planning and Building Services.

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

Moved: C. Chin Yet

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of November 09, 2021

Moved: J. Düntsch

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Presentations (invited guests)

Scott Richie from the City's Planning Department provided information on a potential development to be located on the same property that includes "Gateway St. Catharines", which consists of two obelisks and a structure of large rocks known as the "rock pile". The property is a significant piece of downtown property on St. Paul Street and considered the "entryway" to the City. S. Ritchie noted that for this reason the development project is likely to be quite exceptional.

S. Ritchie noted he recently learned that all of Gateway St. Catharines – both obelisks and the large rock structure – is part of the City's Civic Art Collection. The challenge is that the "rock pile" creates a barrier to what would likely be the entrance to the building's grand lobby, retail space, restaurant with patio, etc. The question then becomes, to what degree would it be appropriate to work with the developer to re-create this space? S. Ritchie would like PAAC input on what may/may not be appropriate in terms of changes to the space.

The second challenge for this property is that at the other corner is the statue of William Hamilton Merritt. S. Ritchie noted the base of the statue is in poor condition due to road salt spray (as per Culture Office condition reports). The Planning Department has identified two options for this statue, including:

- Move it back from the road, either on its current base or on a newly constructed base; or,
- Move the statue to the other corner where Gateway St. Catharines is located.

N. Rizvi shared the condition reports for both art pieces.

William Hamilton Merritt (WHM) Statue

- Statue itself is in pretty good condition, just needs to be cleaned.
- Base is starting to come apart and considered to be in poor condition. Should be replaced.
- Some funding earmarked in 2022 capital budget for restoration.

Gateway St. Catharines

- Consists of 2 obelisks (full and partial) and rock formation, with landscaping.
- Landscaping has changed significantly from when it was first conceived.
- If PAAC is interested, options include de-accessioning the piece from the collection, or separating the rock formation and preserving the obelisks.

N. Rizvi noted that developer can be approached in terms of a trade-off. Rock formation could potentially be de-accessioned and removed in turn for support of the restoration of the WHM statue. Because both pieces are part of the Civic Art Collection, it would be up to PAAC to decide what happens with these pieces. N. Rizvi also noted the location of WHM is significant, as there is a tradition of canal builders overlooking the canals they helped build. WHM could be moved into storage during construction, restored, then replaced farther from the road on a newly constructed base. Perhaps the obelisks could also be placed in storage during construction.

Coun. Garcia asked when both pieces were constructed. N. Rizvi stated Gateway St. Catharines was constructed in 1987 and that the name of the artist and landscaping company are on file. She noted the artist would be contacted before any changes were made to the work. The WHM statue was erected in 1928. Coun. Garcia noted that it would have historical significance and, as such, suggested the Heritage Advisory Committee also be consulted.

Committee members were concerned that the artist be consulted if any changes are made to Gateway Niagara and asked about moving the obelisks to the same corner as WHM. S. Ritchie noted the obelisks could likely stay where they are but was concerned with the barrier that the rock pile forms.

C. Chin Yet asked what would happen if Gateway St. Catharines is de-accessioned. N. Rizvi responded that it would be removed from the collection and could be discarded. Best practice is to offer the piece to other institutions, but there is a question as to how much artistic value the rock formation itself has. Idea could be to de-accession the rock formation but keep the obelisks as part of the collection. S. Ritchie noted that the land itself would remain City property and that it would just be a matter of removing the rocks. S. Ritchie also clarified that the land would remain public space.

Some discussion followed around what would happen to the rocks if they were de-accessioned and removed and if they could be used in the construction or as a base for WHM. S. Ritchie noted that they could hopefully be used by the City's Parks Department as part of another project and clarified that any associated costs would be covered by the developer.

N. Rizvi noted there is no motion coming from this presentation, but that this discussion was intended to help S. Ritchie know how much maneuverability he has in his negotiations with the developer.

8. Business arising from the minutes

None

9. Business

a. 9.1 Civic Art Collection Report

i. Donation – Jon Shaw Prints

Two prints, "Hospital 1" and "Hospital 2" were offered to the City as donations. The Committee evaluated the prints and determined that both were of significant value to be accessioned as part of the City's Civic Art Collection.

Motion:

That the Public Art Advisory Committee accept "Hospital 1" (2019) and "Hospital 2" (2019) by Jon Shaw into the City's Civic Art Collection.

Moved by: J. Düntsch

Carried

Motion to accept report: C. Chin Yet

Carried

b. 9.2 Committee Work Plan Report – No Report

There has not been significant movement on the Work Plan over the past few months. More discussion can happen virtually, and a draft plan can be completed in early January.

ACTION: S. Ashukian to send Work Plan notes to PAAC.

ACTION: A. Judd-Rifkin to add Work Plan discussion to January PAAC Agenda.

c. 9.3 Public Art Programming Report – N. Rizvi

Private Watson Memorial – The Niagara Military Museum was hoping to take Private Watson statue, but Niagara Falls City Council did not support the relocation to Niagara Falls. There is some money in 2022 capital budget and Veterans Affairs Canada will be approached for funding to support the cost of moving the statue. Stakeholder consultation favoured Victoria Lawn Cemetery, but there will be a report forthcoming with a recommendation that goes to Council for a final decision.

Rodman Hall Statue Relocation – Statue move is close, land-license agreement with the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara is in place and the Culture Office is just waiting on their certificate of insurance before engaging the moving company and the conservator. Next steps include detailed drawings from Engineering and the physical installation of the sculptures in their new locations.

Totem Pole – There is Council-approved budget to restore the Totem Pole, but the project has been stalled because of COVID. The Totem Pole, currently in storage, will need to be relocated by May/June of 2022. N. Rizvi will be in touch with the artist who will be doing the restoration work to discuss next steps.

Motion to accept report: A. Adewumi

Carried

d. 9.4 Report from Cultural Services Office – See Item 9.5 Other Business

e. 9.5 Other Business

i. Update on Niagara Artists Centre (NAC) – No report

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

Waiting for NRFP proposals to come in March 2022. Task Force is in the midst of their fundraising campaign.

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

The donor campaign will launch on Friday December 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Race/Carlisle St. parkette, which will be the future home of the Memorial. There will be a press release and the contracting process has begun with the supplier. Phase 1 is a consultation phase and full contracting will be in Spring 2022. The target date for the unveiling is Fall 2022.

A. Judd-Rifkin provided the following information from the Cultural Services office:

- At the Council meeting on November 29, the last round of SCCIP Recommendations were approved. Staff has notified the applicants and the remaining funds (\$84,891) will be disbursed before the end of 2021.
- The Arts Awards was a great success! The hybrid event that took place on Sunday, November 21 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre and was also livestreamed. Eighteen nominees were honoured for their contributions to the St. Catharines arts community. Recipients were announced in six categories, including:
 - Curtis Tye for Arts in Education;
 - Elise Naccarato for Emerging Artist;
 - Peter Shea for Established Artist;
 - OPIRG Brock for Making a Difference; and,
 - Jean Bridge for Jury's Pick.

There were also performances by nominees Kathryn Sinopoli, Sarah Jerrom and Peter Shea, as well as a video presentation from Chorus Niagara. You can watch the entire ceremony on the PAC's YouTube page.

- Culture Days released their list of rankings three weeks ago and, for the second year in a row, St. Catharines came out on top as the overall #1 City in Canada with 192 events and activities! We were very happy with this year's community engagement, both at in-person, socially distanced activities and with the wide variety of virtual offerings. Special shout-out to Culture Coordinator Michelle Nicholls who worked tirelessly to make sure we were #1 again this year!
- After 3.5 years as a valued team member of the Cultural Services office, Michelle has moved on from the City of St. Catharines to accept a position with the City of Burlington as a Special Events and Festivals Coordinator. As most of you know, Michelle excelled at managing and marketing cultural events, including the Arts Awards and Culture Days and she will be greatly missed!
- Culture Coordinator job posting is on the City's website – those interested in applying can visit Careers on <http://www.stcatharines.ca> for more information.

iv. Terms of Reference Amendment

N. Rizvi noted that there used to be a seat on PAAC for Rodman Hall. Since Rodman Hall no longer exists, staff is proposing that Rodman Hall's one seat be split into two seats: one representative from the Visual Arts Faculty at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts; and one representative from the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara. As such, the Terms of Reference of the Public Art Advisory Committee need to be amended. Both organizations have been contacted

and are in favour of the appointment. Both would be voting members. There was some discussion around specifying that it be a visual arts faculty member, and the committee agreed that the language should be changed to say, “a faculty member.”

Motion:

To amend the Terms of Reference of the Public Art Advisory Committee to include a representative from the Faculty at Brock University’s Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts; and,

That this item be referred to the next meeting of the Cultural Sustainability Committee for approval.

Moved by: C. Chin Yet

Carried

Motion:

To amend the Terms of Reference of the Public Art Advisory Committee to include a representative of the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara; and,

That this item be referred to the next meeting of the Cultural Sustainability Committee for approval.

Moved by: J. Düntsch

Carried

v. 2022 PAAC Meeting Schedule and Times

It was noted that 5 p.m. was a good time for a regular meeting, however since not all members were present, the committee agreed that no final decision would be made until the new year.

ACTION: A. Judd-Rifkin to circulate email before the holidays regarding meeting times in 2022.

vi. Update from S. Ashukian

S. Ashukian noted the importance of arriving on time for meetings and for sending regrets to staff. Extra 2 seats should help with quorum in 2022. Completing forms in a timely manner is also important.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday January 11, 2022
Via Zoom
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Public Art Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Moved by: J. Düntsch

Carried