

## Minutes

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

**Via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.**

### **Attendance:**

Ayo Adewumi, Susan Ashukian, Catherine Chin Yet, Justus Düntsch, Niagara Artists Centre Representative, Mark Roe

### **Absent:**

Michael Zuberec

### **Guests:**

Coun. Carlos Garcia, Kathleen Powell

### **Staff:**

Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Noora Rizvi

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

5:01 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): Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services.

#### **4. Motion to approve the agenda for January 11, as amended**

**Moved: C. Chin Yet**

**Carried**

#### **5. Motion to adopt the minutes of December 14, 2021**

**Moved: J. Düntsch**

**Carried**

**6. Declarations of Interest**

None

**7. Presentations (invited guests)**

Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services, presented the Terms of Reference for the 2029 Historic Welland Canals Task Force, which include having a PAAC member join the Task Force. K. Powell noted the importance of having public art expertise on the Task Force and invited PAAC members to consider who among them might join.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee wondered what the term of the Task Force would be. K. Powell noted that all Task Force members would be re-appointed after this fall's municipal election (if they chose to continue sitting on their respective Advisory Committees) and meetings would likely resume in February 2023. The Committee wondered about the specific role of the Task Force and K. Powell noted it will be to develop an interpretive plan. Working in tandem with City departments and other community groups to map current historic assets will also be a priority.

Further discussion centered on opportunities for the interpretive plan to connect wellness and education with telling the story of the Welland Canals, and the new Welland Canals exhibit gallery at the Museum can be a resource for this.

Committee members will consider this offer and respond to K. Powell at a later date.

**8. Business arising from the minutes**

None

**9. Business**

**a. 9.1 Civic Art Collection Report – No Report**

**b. 9.2 Committee Work Plan Report**

**i. 2021 Work Plan wrap-up**

The Committee discussed items from the 2021 Work Plan and their level of completion, including:

- Percent for Art Policy – Close to being ready but needs staff to work with Legal to review it, as well as develop a flow chart for working through the policy. This item needs more work and the Committee is keen to have this work move forward.
- Billboard Tax – The City's Legal Department said this tax wasn't possible within the bounds of the Municipal Act. Toronto has an exemption that allows them to tax billboards, but St. Catharines does not.

- Sculpture Garden – With City Council agreeing to find space for six sculptures from the grounds of Rodman Hall, this item has pivoted to a downtown sculpture walk. Creation of interpretive panels, in partnership with Rodman Art Institute of Niagara (RAIN), has become the new project. It can also include other pieces within the City's Civic Art Collection as well as community murals.
- Pop-up Art – S. Ashukian contacted the Pen Centre regarding pop-up art exhibits. Other ideas included an art crawl and works hanging in storefronts. Idea is to put these items on hold for now.
- Wrapping Hydro Boxes – There wasn't time to do the grant before O. Hope went on maternity leave in August. Plan is to complete a grant in July 2022 to cover the fees for wrapping hydro boxes. There may be notes in the culture office files regarding this grant.

## ii. Discussion of Items for 2022 Work Plan

The Committee agreed that work plan items carried over to 2022 will include the Percent for Art Policy, the Sculpture Garden and Wrapping Hydro Boxes. J. Düntsch expressed interest in being part of the Sculpture Garden / Art Walk initiative.

M. Roe questioned whether outdoor exhibits could be included as another item for the work plan. He suggested Richard Pierpoint Park as a potential location and printed, digital images (like the wraps on hydro boxes) as a potential medium. S. Remus noted there was an exhibit there previously (10-15 years ago) and there should be a template to do this within the culture office files. The entire Committee was quite supportive of the idea. One committee questioned whether this would be in stead of a juried exhibit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall or in addition to a juried exhibit.

N. Rizvi noted a potential for a large-scale call for art tied to Black History, and that there are potential partnerships and lots of items to think about. The Committee agreed to delve further into this item after it's on the work plan.

**Motion to accept report: J. Düntsch**

**Carried**

## c. 9.3 Public Art Programming Report – No Report

**d. 9.4 Report from Cultural Services Office – A. Judd-Rifkin / N. Rizvi**

- The Culture Office is hiring a Culture Coordinator to fill in for Olivia until she returns from her mat leave. The job posting is on the City's website – those interested in applying can visit <http://www.stcatharines.ca/jobs> for more information. Staff can also forward the direct link to the posting to the committee.
- The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee is currently recruiting for a new member. For more information, or to apply, please visit the City's website. Staff can forward a link to the application.
- Private Watson – Relocation of this statue has been included in the City's 2022 Capital Budget. \$100,000 has been allocated to move it, perhaps to the originally proposed location of Victoria Lawn Cemetery (VLC). N. Rizvi plans to do a site visit at VLC to see if the statue should be at the real Private Watson's gravesite or with the other war memorials.
- William Hamilton Merritt statue – There has been \$135,000 allocated from the City's 2022 Capital Budget to restore this statue.
- Totem Pole – The restoration of the Totem Pole has been put on hold because of a variety of issues, most to do with the covid pandemic. The budget is still there when the time comes to re-start this project.

The Committee had a short discussion around what might replace Private Watson on the lawn of City Hall.

**Motion to accept report: J. Düntsch**

**Carried**

**e. 9.5 Other Business**

- i. Update on Niagara Artists Centre (NAC) – S. Remus  
No update as everything has closed again.
- ii. Update on Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi  
The fundraising campaign is ongoing and the deadline for the NRFP is coming up in March. One Committee member asked how much had been raised through fundraising efforts. N. Rizvi noted she will report back on this at the next PAAC meeting.
- iii. Update on Fallen Firefighters Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi  
There was a public launch event for fundraising for the memorial and the donor campaign is now well underway. The Fire Fighter's union has already committed \$50,000 and a group of retired fire fighters has been engaged to promote pathway bricks – which can be engraved with the donor's message of choice – as an option for donation. N. Rizvi and other Task Force members had a meeting with CFC Supply earlier today to discuss the process of Phase 1 of design. There have been tentative commitments of \$150,000 to date, and the unveiling date for the monument is tentatively fall 2022.

iv. Update on Rodman Hall Sculpture Move – N. Rizvi

The license agreement has been signed and now full project management can begin. Once removed, the statues will go into storage while the City preps the new sites. The plan is for re-installation of the sculptures to begin in the spring. Carolina Blue, however, will not be moved. Instead, a live tree will be planted, in consultation with artist Reinhard Reitzenstein and the City's parks and horticulture specialists.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that 5:00 p.m. worked as a meeting time for 2022 meetings.

Tuesday February 8, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

**ACTION:** Staff to forward meeting notices for the remainder of the PAAC term.

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

That the Public Art Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

**Moved by: A. Adewumi**

**Carried**