

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2013 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor M. Little
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn
Councillor L. Muri
Councillor A. Nixon

Absent: Councillor R. Bassam

Staff: Mr. B. Bydwell, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. S. Berardo, Confidential Council Clerk

Also in

Attendance: Mr. Ian Forsyth, Director – The Arts Office
Ms. Lori Phillips, Public Art Coordinator – The Arts Office

1. Opening by the Mayor

Mayor Walton opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

2. Public Art

File No.

Memo: Ian Forsyth, Director – The Arts Office
Lori Phillips, Public Art Coordinator – The Arts Office

Ms. Lori Phillips, Public Art Coordinator – The Arts Office, provided an overview of the benefits and value of public art within the community. Ms. Phillips noted that North Vancouver has over one hundred public artworks spread across the North Shore marking gateways, animating streetscapes, and integrated into the natural environment. Public art can be found in libraries, along nature trails and public walkways, in parks, and shopping plazas. Each piece is an original, one-of-a-kind work that is specifically created to reflect and express North Vancouver's local heritage, culture, and environment with a total value of \$1.8 million.

Arts, culture, and heritage are important in building and expressing community character and sense of place. They play a multi-faceted role as an important part of a local economy, as a contributing factor to social well-being and quality of life, and as a means to promote community identity. Arts contribute to the community by:

- Providing a record of the past;
- Defining, enhancing, and animating public places;
- Creating a sense of place, increasing community identity and pride;
- Contributing to an attractive and vibrant urban environment for the enjoyment of residents and to attract visitors and businesses;
- Promoting common enjoyment and interaction through celebrations, events and exhibitions;

- Creating opportunities for active living and lifelong learning; and,
- Stimulating economic activity.

The Public Art Program is administered and delivered through three major program streams: Civic Public Art, Community Public Art, and Developer Public Art. Civic Public Art is a space with “place making” qualities and culture and has the capacity to interpret the historic, social, cultural, and narrative characteristics that distinguish our neighbourhoods and create a true sense of place. Community Public Art emphasizes the potential participation of citizens in the creation of a publicly accessible artwork and encourages residents and artists to work collaboratively. The primary objective of the Developer Public Art Program is to provide a mechanism through which private developments can include public art as a sanctioned amenity contribution during the rezoning process.

The District of North Vancouver Public Art Program has been a success to date but looking forward the Developer Public Art Program needs some modifications especially with the District of North Vancouver’s OCP and new town centres and villages. To address these new conditions outside the town centres the following revisions are suggested:

- Agreed upon parameters describing when the Developer Public Art Program will apply within the Community Amenity Contribution Policy;
- Introduction of an administration fee to support and sustain the Public Art Program; and,
- The creation of a sliding scale funding mechanism for calculating developer public art contribution.

To identify, prioritize, and address the opportunities within the new town centres and villages the Public Art Program will work closely with the District’s planning staff to participate in community engagement and planning processes for each centre, gather information on community preferences, and identify a number of public art opportunities that are engaging and expressive of each unique centres.

The Village and Town Centre Public Art Plan should include:

- A general policy framework with the consideration of public art in centres;
- Individual sections tailored to each town centres’ unique place and focus;
- Hierarchy of public art opportunities; and,
- Options for developer public art contributions, both on-site and pooled.

Ms. Phillips concluded her presentation by reviewing public art in the broader context, how it has the power to energize public spaces, the broad success of the District of North Vancouver’s Public Art Program which is well recognized and a leader in the field, ways to strengthen the Public Art Program, specifically with revisions to the Developer Public Art Policy, and long term planning for the new town centres and villages.

Council Discussion:

Council questioned whether the District’s Public Art Program mirrors the City of North Vancouver’s program. Staff advised that it has a similar program but the City of North Vancouver has more funding.

Council inquired how the planning department will enforce public art community amenity contributions. Staff advised that with the implementation of the new OCP Town Center Plan they will continue to recognize a portion of the community amenity contribution funding with a similar funding formula. Council commented that public art community amenity contributions should be recognized going forward.

Council spoke in support of the Public Art Program within town centres but queried what the maintenance of public art installed on public property would look like. Staff advised that public art is traditionally low maintenance and is the responsibility of the strata to maintain it when on private property.

Council reinforced art integration in functional pieces such as bus stops and lamp posts. Council spoke in support of a few signature art pieces with more general beautification programs throughout the District.

Council questioned the proportion of North Vancouver artists represented in the District's public art. Staff advised that there are a few local artists in the collection but they have to compete against all applicants.

Public Input:

Mr. Corrie Kost:

- Questioned the percentage of money put towards public art.

Mr. John Hunter:

- Commented that money put toward public art is paid by the taxpayers; and,
- Stated that too many pieces of art can oversaturate an area.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Confidential Council Clerk