



Steering Committee Update: Meeting Minutes

Project: Ladysmith Arts and Heritage Hub
Meeting Date: January 6, 2022 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Meeting Location: Zoom
Notes Issued: January 7, 2022

Attendance:

Marnie Craig	MC	<i>Ladysmith Maritime Society Representative</i>
Ora Steyn	OS	<i>Arts Council of Ladysmith and District Representative</i>
Quentin Goodbody	QG	<i>Ladysmith and District Historical Society Representative</i>
Marsh Stevens	MS	<i>Town of Ladysmith Councillor</i>
Chris Barfoot	CB	<i>Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Julie Tierney	JT	<i>Executive Liaison, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Mike Gregory	MG	<i>Communications, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Jake Belobaba	JB	<i>Director of Development Services, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Allison McCarrick	AM	<i>Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Ben Checkwitch	BC	<i>Checkwitch Poiron Architects Inc.</i>
Brett MacIntyre (X̱uut'a K'ii)	BM	<i>Checkwitch Poiron Architects Inc.</i>
John Marston	JM	<i>Design Consultant</i>
Kelty Mckinnon	KM	<i>PFS Studios</i>

No. Item

1. **Introduction:** Ben welcomed everyone and gave a land acknowledgement.
2. **Meeting Intent:** Ben noted that the intent of the meeting was to give the Steering Committee members in attendance an update on the work that has been done since the previous Steering Committee meeting.
3. **Meetings with Elders Update:** Ben gave a short summary of the meetings that have been held with the Stz'uminus Elders. It was noted that the project team is very fortunate to have the involvement of the Elders, and their input has been very valuable. It was noted that the longhouse/big house is an important element of Stz'uminus culture, and as such elements of longhouses/big houses will likely be incorporated into the project.

4. **Project Organization and Structure:** Ben reviewed how the Artists Studio building and associated public space are a component of the Ladysmith Arts and Heritage Hub, which itself is a component of the Waterfront Area Plan. He also reviewed how design information for the Artists Studio building will first be reviewed by the Stz'uminus Elders before it is disseminated to the Steering Committee to ensure it is an appropriate expression of Stz'uminus Culture.
5. **Cultural Elements in the Artists Studio Building:** The Steering Committee noted the Artists Studio building seemed to be incorporating elements typically included in cultural centres. They agreed that the building program has evolved since the project inception, and the incorporation of cultural elements is a positive step for the design. John agreed, and noted that Stz'uminus culture is intrinsic to art, and that it is good to remain open to a number of influences. Ben also noted that one of the goals of the design team is to provide a building which acts as an 'open framework' that can accommodate a number of activities to help ensure long term sustainability.
6. **Funding Application Wording:** ToL will share the funding applications with the design team and Steering Committee.
7. **Landscaping and Public Space Design:** The project landscape and public space design was discussed.
 - The landscape and public space design will be challenging, but represents an opportunity for the project.
 - The landscape design can create a 'non-linear' narrative of the overlapping histories of the site
 - This project is important for the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation. As such, there may be areas that are for use by members of the Stz'uminus community only.
 - Permeability for both the building and the landscaping will be an important consideration moving forward.
 - Some aspects of the site history are painful for members of the Stz'uminus community, the design team will work to ensure that the site history is expressed in an honest and constructive manner.
 - The public space design will need to maintain a balance of uses. The ToL envisions this space as a place for the public to gather, and as a meeting ground for members of the Ladysmith and Stz'uminus communities. The meeting/collaboration of Ladysmith and Stz'uminus community members was an integral component of the funding application, and must be maintained.
8. **Rails and Rolling Stock:** The on-site rails and rolling stock were discussed:
 - The Historical Society is preparing proposals related to the rails and rolling stock. They will forward these proposals to the design team.
 - The rolling stock currently on site would be difficult to store anywhere off-site.
 - The design team will review the presentations given by the Historical Society and Maritime Society at the first Steering Committee meeting. They will also coordinate a site visit with the Historical Society as soon as it is safe to do so.
9. **Oyster Bay Drive:** Oyster Bay Drive road discussed:
 - CPA will coordinate a meeting with Ryan Bourma (ToL), the civil consultant and PFS to review the design requirements for Oyster Bay Drive.
 - The road and public space design will need to ensure the Artists Studio building is not cut off from the rest of the site by Oyster Bay Drive, and there are no pedestrian/vehicular conflicts.
 - The Waterfront Area Plan includes plans for a through-road to be located below the project site. The truck traffic currently running on Oyster Bay Drive could be shifted to this proposed through-road, which would enable the space in front of the Artists Studio building to have a more "plaza-like" feel which favours pedestrian circulation.