



Steering Committee Meeting #4: Meeting Minutes

Project: Arts and Heritage Hub
Meeting Date: March 30, 2022 11:30am - 1:15pm
Meeting Location: Zoom
Minutes Issued: April 27, 2022

Attendance:

Roxanne Harris	RH	<i>Chief, Stz'uminus First Nation</i>
Allison McCarrick	AMC	<i>Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Chris Barfoot	CB	<i>Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Jake Belobaba	JB	<i>Director of Development Services, Town of Ladysmith</i>
Marsh Stevens	MS	<i>Town of Ladysmith Councillor</i>
Ben Checkwitch	BC	<i>Checkwitch Poiron Architects Inc.</i>
John Marston	JM	<i>Design Consultant</i>
Kelty McKinnon	KM	<i>PFS Studios Landscape Architects</i>
Ora Steyn	OS	<i>Arts Council of Ladysmith and District Representative</i>
Quentin Goodbody	QB	<i>Ladysmith and District Historical Society Representative</i>

No. Item

1. Ben Checkwitch welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the project was located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.
2. Ben Checkwitch reviewed the project timeline. He noted that since the last Stakeholder meeting that there had been another meeting with the Stz'uminus Elders, and that this was the 3rd such meeting that had occurred to date. The designs that were being presented during this Stakeholder Meeting were also presented to the Stz'uminus Elders and had received a favourable response.
3. Ben noted that Kelty McKinnon, Quentin Goodbody and Ben Checkwitch had met on site on March 10, 2022 to review the specific issues identified by the Ladysmith Historical Society.

4. Kelly McKinnon presented the preliminary design of the site and landscape which was developed with John Marston and CPA. It featured an overall aesthetic derived from design and drawing iterations between John Marston and PFS. It was noted that the site strategy proposed the removal of some rail tracks in order to make the site more amenable for public gathering.
5. Ben Checkwitch presented the preliminary design of the Artist's Studio building. The design's overall form referred strongly to the form and character of a Coast Salish longhouse. However, it was noted that the program of the building was intended for the creation of art. Therefore, while the building's design "referred" to longhouse design, it would not be used as such and deviations from a typical longhouse are required. The design also featured a louvered facade that featured Coast Salish design elements.
6. Quentin Goodbody mentioned that the building should be able to accommodate the movement of art to be moved in & out easily. He also mentioned concern about **the cost** of the building. Ben agreed that these were valid issues that will be addressed moving forward.
7. Both the design of the site and building were well received by the Stakeholder Group. Chief Roxanne Harris noted that she was happy with the inclusion of Stz'uminus design elements and overall direction of the project.
8. Chris Barfoot spoke about the possible management and governance of the Artists' Studio building. Allison McCarrick stated that if there were other similar buildings that were known to the group that she would be interested in learning more about how they are managed.
9. A question was asked about the maintenance of the site. Chris Barfoot replied that it would be managed similarly to a park, by Park Facilities Operations. Allison McCarrick noted that if Stz'uminus were interested in maintaining certain elements such as a medicinal garden or other Stz'uminus elements that it would be welcomed.
10. Ben Checkwitch mentioned the possibility of giving the Artists' Studio building a Stz'uminus name. Ora Steyn agreed that this would be a good idea. Both she and Allison McCarrick suggested asking the Stz'uminus elders about how to do this.
11. Ben asked the group about giving the entire Arts and Heritage Hub project a Stz'uminus name. Ora Steyn was supportive of this idea. Quentin Goodbody suggested that the word "Oyster" could be incorporated into the name. It was noted by Kelly McKinnon that "Oyster" was something that meant something to everyone in a positive way. Jake suggested that Stz'uminus words or phrases could be used to describe the purpose of what the place is supposed to be.
12. Allison McCarrick asked if a cost estimate could be prepared by June in order to satisfy the requirements of a funding application. Ben Checkwitch stated that the design team will endeavour to work toward this deadline.