Mid Term Report

As the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee embarks on the second half of its mandate under the current City Council, it may be instructive to reflect upon the initiatives undertaken by the Committee and the status of some key planning and/or development projects that we have commented on. The exercise, along with the list of priorities prepared by Becky Rogers in her report (ACHAC 16-012) presented at our 10 March 2016 meeting should help us focus our time and resources on the key tasks/opportunities in the year ahead. Following a group discussion, Becky identified several key priorities "in keeping with [ACHAC's] role to provide input and feedback from a cultural perspective on major planning initiatives and capital construction projects and to keep in mind the priorities of the Municipal Cultural Plan in the mind of staff and elected officials."

January

At the January meeting, the committee discussed: implementation of the MCP and priorities for 2016, terms of reference for the PAAC and proposed projects and ACHAC's submission to the provincial cultural strategy. As a result of the meeting, we contributed to the first round of discussion on a provincial cultural strategy which eventually led to a provincial policy regarding culture which was received for information at the September meeting.

<u>February</u>

Brad Appleby presented an update on the Lily Lake Subdivision development and draft plan of subdivision. The plan was later modified with a downsizing of the projected numbers and timetable as a result of the Provincial Parkway decision for additional environmental assessment. The Committee also received a presentation on the Crescent Street urban design planning activities which have been dormant since then.

March

The principal focus of the March meeting was discussion on the formal report prepared by Becky that captured our January discussion on 2016 priorities that will be used to provide ACHAC with presentations and staff reports.

Arenas Parks & Recreation: Vision2025; Morrow Park

A, C & H Division: Archaeology, Public Art, Cultural Hub, NCC & culture for refugees

Planning Projects & Updates: Affordable Housing, Casino, CAMP, Charlotte St, Louis St urban parkette ,Crescent Street, Del Crary Park, Gateway Welcome Signage, OP Review, Otonabee River Trail, Waterfront entrance, Site plans

Utility Services Projects: Bethune St. design, Downtown parking plan, Road& Bridge projects

Strategic Plans: AGP, PPL, City Strategic Plan

In addition, Committee had a presentation by Julie Davis regarding development of Trent Endowment Lands, and revitalization of Trail College, among other university projects. The Committee was particularly interested in the potential impact of new developments on the heritage character of university built heritage. Julie mentioned the formation of a heritage committee and development of a heritage stewardship policy to guide development. It is unfortunate that despite offers by ACHAC to contribute its expertise to this initiative, no follow up from the University. A request during the winter for an update, the chair was informed that consultants had been hired to do this work and that once the draft report had been reviewed, we would be provided with a copy. This is not the kind of consultation that was envisioned. ACHAC is scheduled to receive a presentation on this topic at the April meeting.

April

The agenda featured a number of presentations. Kim Zippel provided an update on the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative. This matter was brought forward when CAO A. Seabrooke spoke on the city's Strategic Framework. He acknowledged the importance of this provincially significant natural area and provided assurance that city staff would be working with Harper Park advocates to insure appropriate management of this site. Danielle Rochleau of Laridae Consultants spoke about the timetable and planning process for the Strategic Plan being developed for the Peterborough Art Gallery. To date, from my knowledge, there has been no further input from ACHAC to this process.

May

Sarah Cullingham, the Age-Friendly co-ordinator, presented an update on the city's Age Friendly Plan for Peterborough which was received for information. Similarly, Erik Hanson reported on the Heritage District. In most instances, the Public Art Advisory Committee presented an update on its activities for information. However, at the May meeting, a separate agenda item regarding public art on hydro vaults was discussed and found to have numerous issues that would militate against such a program.

June

The key item on the agenda for this month's meeting was a presentation on the casino. As a result, the chair was directed to write to Ontario Gaming East Limited Partnership requesting an opportunity to comment and provide suggestions on the design of the proposed casino. The chair subsequently wrote to Mr. Chuck Keeling of Shorelines Slots inviting him to a meeting of ACHAC to discuss the proposed design of the new facility and encouraging adoption of public art in their final design.

September

There were two meetings in September, the regular monthly meeting and a special joint meeting with other Advisory Committees to receive a report on the Bethune Street Redevelopment. The ACHAC Committee has been closely involved with this project and provided input throughout the process including recommendations from the Public Art Advisory Committee. This is an ongoing project that will be phased in over many years but contains within the project budget, acknowledgement that targeted funding for public art is a requisite for the successful

accomplishment of this part of the total project. The regular monthly meeting featured a presentation by Brad Appleby on the Lily Lake development that was received for information.

October

The Committee received a presentation by Darryl Whitehouse on the various Peterborough area projects by the Trent-Severn Waterway, especially work at Lock 19 and at Nassau Mills Road area. Mr. Whitehead indicated that the TSW would establish a community engagement committee to solicit input for ideas and the Committee would be welcome to participate in this. The Committee also discussed the proposed Quaker Oats memorial and the relationship of such private initiatives with the Public Art policy. B.Templeman requested the chair to contact the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Committee regarding showing films outdoors during the summer. The chair subsequently contacted the chair of ARPRC but has not yet received a reply. Perhaps a more formal request for a delegation from ACHAC to the next meeting of the Arenas committee might help move this initiative forward.

November

After a few postponements, the Committee received a presentation from Mike Melnik on the activities of the city's 150th Anniversary Committee. ACHAC members provided a number of other suggestions for the commemoration and directed the chair to summarize these suggestions in a letter to the Committee. The chair, as directed, sent the letter but to date there has been no response or acknowledgement of this communication.

As will be seen from this very brief synopsis, there were a number of initiatives undertaken by ACHAC during the past year as well as numerous presentations for information along with the regular monthly reports by Erik, Becky and Bruce on behalf of the Public Art Advisory Committee. Some of these projects, such as the Bethune Street redevelopment and the Lily Lake development have had enhancements as a result of ACHAC input. Others seem to stall such as the casino request. In part these are the result of circumstances beyond the purview of ACHAC. Others that have not yielded the results we wanted are harder to explain. In refocusing our efforts for the remainder of our mandate, I draw these observations to the attention of the Committee members so that we can maximize our efforts and direct our attention and activities to areas, projects or new initiatives where we can have the maximum effect.