

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, November 03, 2015

Burgoyne Woods Room, 3rd floor, City Hall at 6pm p.m.

Present:

Monica Dufault, Vickie Fagan, Jennifer Hay (ex-officio), Sandy Middleton, Wynne Nicholson, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson, Councillor Joe Kushner

Regrets:

Lindsay Jack Brauweiler, Jeff Burch, Sandra Merk, Peter Wing, Councillor Carlos Garcia

Staff Liaison:

Rebecca Cann, Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Phil Cristi

1. Call meeting to order (J. Wallace)

6:01

2. Introductions

None

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Item 8 – Date of next meeting is Dec.1 not Nov.3

4. Motion to approve the Agenda for November 3, 2015

Moved: A. Wilson

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of October 6, 2015

Moved: W. Nicholson

Carried

6. Business arising from the minutes

None

7. Correspondence

R. Cann reported that the nomination deadline for the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts Award is December 1, 2015. The Committee cannot nominate anyone, but committee members can nominate artists outside of the committee.

8. Business

8.1 Arts Awards Subcommittee Report – W. Nicholson

W. Nicholson reported that the Arts Awards Subcommittee is proposing changes to the Arts Awards categories and selection criteria descriptions.

The changes that were proposed include:

- To have two emerging artist awards instead of only one. The award will be \$500 cash but no physical award will be presented (unless there are extra sponsors). The Subcommittee also proposed having one award for performing arts and one award for literary/visual arts.
- To change the name of the "Making a Difference" award to the "Arts Builder" award. The ACAC had some discussion around this name change. It was suggested that, for the nomination forms, wording similar to "formerly known as the making a difference award" should be included so that people who were nominated for the Making a Difference award wouldn't be nominated again.
- To create a lifetime achievement award. This award would not be handed out every year and there would be no public nominations. Instead, the ACAC would nominate an established professional artist (in any arts discipline) whose body of work has been recognized nationally and/or internationally, and who has made a contribution to the cultural vibrancy of St. Catharines over his or her lifetime.

Motion: that the Arts Award categories be approved with the following additions:

- **To increase from one to two (2) "Emerging Artist" Awards**
- **To change the name of the "Making a Difference" Award to "Arts Builder" Award**
- **To add a lifetime achievement award**

Moved by: W. Nicholson Carried

P. Cristi Arrives – 6:19

W. Nicholson reported that the Arts Awards Subcommittee discussed having the event as a fundraiser. The discussion included:

- Fundraising would be received positively by City Council
- It might be seen as competing with the arts community for sponsors – i.e. "stealing" sponsors from organizations
- It could become a rationalization for City Council to NOT increase SCCIP OR to stop supporting SCCIP altogether
- Members of the arts community might see a fundraiser as "paying for their own supper"

- An idea for a separate Arts Fundraiser, not connected to the Arts Awards, such as a “Mayor’s Arts Gala” where the audience would specifically be arts patrons and not members of the arts community.

The ACAC then discussed these points and came up with their own questions, including: What are the protocols to ensure that the AA don’t “steal” sponsors from arts orgs? Can there be a way to choose sponsors that don’t already support the arts? What about the award sponsors? Having the Arts Awards as a fundraiser could be a bit “fuzzy” – it’s important people understand what they’re supporting.

Ultimately, there should be a dialogue with the arts community about this. Committee members should go out and talk to people and report back about the conversations they had. It’s important to reflect feedback from the community in this discussion before the Committee considers the idea seriously.

Motion to accept report: S. Middleton Carried.

J. Wallace leads roundtable introductions.

8.2 SCCIP Subcommittee Report – No report

8.3 Courthouse Task Force Report – A. Wilson

A. Wilson reported on the letter she wrote to Coun. Garcia seeking information about the City’s intentions with the Courthouse building. Coun. Kushner noted that engineering will be presenting a report on the building’s condition assessment soon.

Motion to accept report: M. Dufault Carried

8.4 Cultural Funding Task Force Report – J. Wallace

J. Wallace reported that the Cultural Funding Task Force (CFTF) is meeting weekly because of a tight deadline – the December 14 Council meeting is the CFTF’s deadline for a report. The CFTF is made up of 4 Councillors, 4 members of the ACAC and one member of the Heritage Committee.

City staff have been presenting information on the ecology of cultural funding in Canada and the region and a history and evaluation of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP) and the Festival & Events Program. The information is sparking good conversations and great questions that will be addressed in further detail. There has been a lot of learning to date.

R. Cann adds that CFTF members are very engaged, with main questions being: why have a sustaining program for arts organizations? Why invest in arts organizations on an ongoing basis? People want to know about the difference

between funding a large performing arts venue (ie the FOPAC) and funding smaller arts organizations. Why does the City need to do both?

J. Wallace attended a Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce conference with a keynote speaker who really focused on the idea that businesses need to invest in culture – NOT just a bricks-and-mortar building, but invest in the people. The CFTF is working towards recommendations for changes in the policies and programs as well as funding levels. The arts community has been invited to present to the Task Force.

Motion to accept report: S. Middleton Carried

8.5 Cultural Sustainability Committee Report – No report.

8.6 Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann

- The CFTF is a priority for staff at present.
- St. Catharines Cenotaph bronzes are being re-installed this week after having been restored.
- The Tribute to Workers memorial is moving to the front lawn of City Hall.
- 12 artists submitted fine art for consideration at the FOPAC. Works will be chosen by a jury and installed in time for the FOPAC opening on November 14.
- There will also be a digital arts wall “placeholder” installation by Bill Ralph for the FOPAC opening with a full permanent installation scheduled for March.
- Silver Spire United Church is in a Strategic Planning process, and is reaching out to the community about their interest in partnering with the arts community. R. Cann attended a session where there was dialogue around how to support an institution that wants to bridge social & spiritual well-being, health and the arts.
- PAAC met and is looking at a series of mural mosaics installed at Buchanan House for potential accessioning into the public art collection.

Motion to accept report: M. Dufault Carried

8.7 Report on Provincial Cultural Strategy Town Hall – M. Dufault

M. Dufault reported on attending a Provincial Cultural Strategy Town Hall on Thursday, Oct.15 in Hamilton. Ontario is crafting its first provincial culture strategy and are soliciting feedback on a discussion paper they’ve released. It was a positive evening and there is potential for creating meaningful policy. If arts and culture is embedded more effectively in the municipal act at the provincial level, then municipalities will be obliged to focus more attention on arts and culture.

R. Cann recommended that the ACAC make a written submission to the Province – it’s important the Ontario government hears from as many stakeholders as possible. M. Dufault volunteered to draft a letter for submission. J. Hay will provide some background re: culture document from 2014. ACAC

members can share their thoughts with M. Dufault – perhaps by the last week of Nov – so she can compile them and write the letter.

[Here](#) is a link to the discussion paper.

Motion to accept report: V. Fagan

Carried

8.8 Other Business

- J. Wallace asks if interest is coming in for vacancies on ACAC. R. Cann says yes and the Cultural Sustainability Committee will make a recommendation on a new member by Nov. 10.
- J. Wallace presents The Sound article on NO STRUTT / NO SCENE (which is about cultural funding in the region) and encouraged ACAC members to read it.
- [Falling Awake – Essential Collective Theatre](#) is the first theatre company performing at FOPAC! On until Nov 29th
- W. Nicholson was at the Symphony ushering this weekend and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Overheard someone mention they hadn't been downtown in 30 years.
- There is an open house on Nov. 15 at FOPAC

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Burgoyne Woods Room, 3rd floor, City Hall
6 – 7:30 p.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: S. Middleton

Carried

Attachments/Links:

- Report from ACAC to Cultural Sustainability Committee
- 2015 Arts Awards Post Mortem
- Arts Award Nomination Categories (final draft)
- Correspondence to Councillor Garcia re: the Courthouse