



**Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force**  
**Thursday February 4 2010**  
**Committee Room #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall**  
**7:00-8:30pm**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Patti Broughton, Tracy Cotton (Chair), Elizabeth Fritshaw, Jane Gardner, Hugh Gayler, Art Lefstein, Joan Medina, Sue Morrison, Sara Palmieri, Polly Hogan Ritchell, Ron Ritchell, Jennifer Wallace; **Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Annie Wilson  
**Regrets:** Mayor Dave Augustyn, Councillor Mark Elliott, Derek Knight; **Absent:** Councillor Jeff Burch, Kim Payne

**1. Welcome**

T. Cotton welcomed the committee.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** *To approve the agenda of February 4, 2010.*

**Moved:** S. Palmieri

**Seconded:** P. Hogan-Ritchell

**Carried**

**3. Approval of Minutes of January 7, 2010 Meeting**

**Motion:** *To approve the minutes of the January 7 2010 meeting.*

**Moved:** J. Wallace

**Seconded:** E. Fritshaw

**Carried.**

**4. Business Arising**

No business.

**5. Correspondence**

R. Cann noted that the 2010 Insurance Policy for City Committees was recently circulated and outlines the liability coverage that elected officials and volunteers receive when on City business. NCAT noted that they were not listed on the policy. R. Cann will follow up.

**6. 2010 Schedule Development**

At their last meeting, NCAT made goals to develop work plans for their subcommittees in order to inform their future direction. R. Cann reminded NCAT that the majority of the goals identified in their Workplan have now been completed and the committee needs to identify new goals. P. Broughton reported that the Arts Community Development Committee (ACDC) is almost finished their multi year capacity building plan for the arts community and that the subcommittee intends to dissolve once their work on the plan is finalized.

The Outreach Committee has drafted a work plan that identifies their short, mid and long term goals. Short term goals include circulating the Inspire campaign materials to local business,

updating the website, developing the first Inspire newsletter and continuing Inspire promotions. Midterm goals include continuing the Inspire campaign, developing three newsletters a year with project updates, increasing business community outreach and networking at business events. The committee would like to develop a Speaking Tour to local community groups and City Councils. The sub-committee's long term goal is to develop and implement a regional outreach plan. R. Cann offered to pass on her PowerPoint presentations, written and visual aids to the sub-committee. She also noted that the Downtown Revitalization Committee has developed an information presentation and they may be able to share their contact list and possibly partner on presentations.

The Community User Advisory Group will meet on February 25 2010 to discuss future sub-committee goals. NCAT agreed that they would meet every other month after the March meeting.

NCAT also discussed how to manage potential volunteers that are interested in assisting with executing NCAT's work. R. Cann noted that this may be a special job for an NCAT member and that new volunteers would require very clear tasks, training and coordination. NCAT will further discuss if or how they can manage this at future meetings. Email Rebecca ([rcann@stcatharines.ca](mailto:rcann@stcatharines.ca)) if you would like to discuss this idea further.

*ACTION: R. Cann requested that each subcommittee create a work plan that identifies short, mid and long term goals. Please send to Annie ([awilson@stcatharines.ca](mailto:awilson@stcatharines.ca)) before March 4<sup>th</sup> and she will structure into NCAT work plan.*

## **7. Response to Ross Stretton re: Pipe Organ in Concert Hall**

- *Feedback from the Niagara Symphony, Chorus Niagara and Brock's MIW SFPA*

H. Gayler reported that he and D. Knight are still in the midst of collecting more information for NCAT on the pipe organ proposal. H. Gayler did note that Robert Cooper confirmed that Chorus Niagara would use a pipe organ three times a year. H. Gayler and D. Knight will be able to provide a full update at the March meeting. H. Gayler is still attempting to get ahold of Ross Stretton.

## **8. Subcommittee Reports**

*Arts Community Development Committee (ACDC)*

P. Broughton reported that the capacity building plan for the arts community is nearly complete. The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council's Board of Directors have endorsed the plan noting that they will provide leadership to the plan's oversight but will not be responsible for executing every action. P. Broughton added that the Arts Council would require additional resources to implement the plan. The plan will be circulated to the Community User Advisory Group (CUAG) and the arts community for one last round of feedback before being brought to Council.

**Motion:** *NCAT endorses the capacity building plan and is ready to bring it to Council following final consultation with arts community that attended roundtable in March 2009 and CUAG.*

**Moved:** P. Broughton

**Seconded:** H. Gayler

**Carried.**

P. Felices, Chair of ACDC, and S. Palmieri have offered to give the presentation. P. Broughton and R. Cann will also confer about Arts Council representation.

R. Cann noted that one of the recommendations associated with the Capacity Building Plan will be that the Culture Committee take it into consideration when they are looking to renew the City's Cultural Policy.

#### *Community User Advisory Group (CUAG)*

P. Hogan Ritchell reported that CUAG will meet on February 25<sup>th</sup> to review the final draft of the capacity building plan and to identify future goals.

#### *Outreach Subcommittee*

E. Fritshaw will be continuing their outreach work with the Inspire campaign. She encouraged everyone to sign up for the Inspire newsletter at [www.inspireniagara.com](http://www.inspireniagara.com). The sub-committee is in the midst of developing a work plan.

### **9. Project and City Updates**

- R. Cann provided an update from the Joint Executive Committee (JEC) on its progress. Recreation and Community Services Director, Rick Lane, responded: "Currently the JEC is in a holding pattern but remains optimistic that the project and the partnership is still moving forward. The JEC will continue to meet and embark on high level discussions around the partnership framework and operational models."
- The Region's Culture Plan was recently approved by the Culture Plan Advisory and Regional Culture committees. The plan will be looked at by the Integrated Planning Committee on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. On March 5, the plan will be presented to Regional Council. Both meetings are open to the public.
- The Official Plan was presented to St. Catharines City Council in draft form on Monday, February 1 2010. The Official Plan is a key document that provides overarching long term and long range planning guidelines. The Planning Subcommittee of the Culture Committee has worked for over two years trying to embed culture more deeply in the Official Plan. They will be meeting in the near future to determine how successful they have been. Community consultation will be taking place during February. Dates and times of public meetings are available at:  
[http://www.stcatharines.ca/cityservices/citydepartments/planning/plan\\_longrange.asp](http://www.stcatharines.ca/cityservices/citydepartments/planning/plan_longrange.asp)
- City Council is seeking feedback on their budget. Please fill out the online survey to share what is important to you, available at:  
<http://stcatharines.ca/resources/10SurveyOperBudget.pdf>
- Cultural Services have installed the Olympic Torch Celebration painting that was created by Jessica Gorlicky on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall. Gorlicky was commissioned by the Royal Bank of Canada to create a painting for each municipality taking part in the Olympic celebration. This piece was painted in less than ten minutes on stage at the St. Catharines celebration.

### **10. Brock University and MIWSFPA update**

D. Knight was unable to attend and sent the following report: "Brock's position has been to put the project on indefinite hold until we have confirmation of our funding request of \$26.1 million

from the Provincial Government. We believe this is only a temporary setback with a major letter writing campaign and student petition underway. I am nevertheless optimistic about the outcome and am still working with the other members of our executive in planning teaching and instructional spaces within the Haircloth building.”

#### **11. Other Business**

- J. Gardner reported that 16 organizations met at the Niagara Performing Arts Educators meeting in January and plan to reconvene on September 10 2010.
- H. Gayler noted that Brock has 53% of the space they need to run an effective campus. He noted a frequently asked question is why has Brock not debentured to ensure the MIW SFPA will happen. R. Cann asked H. Gayler to send some questions along to E. Fritshaw for inclusion on the FAQs of Inspireniagara.com.
- NCAT was reminded and encouraged to submit their letters in support of Brock’s application for funding to assist with the arts centre project.
- S. Palmieri shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *In the Soil* received over 150 applications for the festival set to take place from April 15 – 24 2010. Artist line up will be announced in early March 2010.

#### **12. Adjournment**

**Motion:** *To adjourn*

Moved: S. Palmieri

#### **13. Next Meeting: Thursday March 4 2010, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Atrium**