



**Minutes**  
**Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force**  
**Thursday April 1, 2010**  
**Atrium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall**  
**7 – 8:30pm**

**Present:** Patti Broughton, Tracy Cotton (Chair), Councillor Mark Elliott, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Jane Gardner, Art Lefstein, Kim Payne, Polly Hogan Ritchell, Ron Ritchell, **Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Leanne Mitchell

**Regrets:** Mayor Dave Augustyn, Hugh Gayler, Derek Knight; Joan Medina, Sue Morrison, Sara Palmieri, Jennifer Wallace **Absent:** Councillor Jeff Burch

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda

**Moved by:** L. Fritshaw

**Seconded by:** P. Hogan Ritchell.

**Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2010

**Moved by:** P. Hogan Ritchell

**Seconded by:** R. Ritchell.

**Carried.**

**3. Business Arising**

None.

**4. Correspondence – Volunteer Recognition Night**

J. Gardner reported that she has nominated T. Cotton for the volunteer recognition award. She noted his four years of leadership on this Task Force were being acknowledged. T. Cotton thanked the Task Force for the nomination.

**5. 2010 Plan Updates**

R. Cann will update and share with the Task Force via email.

**6. Feedback on Pipe Organ in Concert Hall**

Various conversations held concerning report distributed by D. Knight & H. Gayler. R. Cann stated there is no hidden donor and no decommissioned organ available, so fundraising for a pipe organ would be necessary. Rebecca had a conversation with Laura Thomas, Associate Conductor of the Niagara Symphony, about usage and Laura noted that it's possible the future Music Director might be interested, but it would not be a major need for the Symphony. Further consultation about the alternative of an electric organ still required.

Further discussion identified the following issues:

- Cost is significant
- Have to determine in advance of final design whether it is to be included
- Level of need, ie. possibly 3-6 uses a year
- Access for students, depending on what hall it is in
- Chorus Niagara are only group who consistently need a pipe organ
- Funds may be better used elsewhere if electric organ is sufficient.
- Group wants to hear Bob Cooper's feedback
- Does Ross Stretton have funding sources outside the immediate area?

R. Cann noted that the Task Force's comments will need to go to the JEC for final decision-making. R. Cann offered to develop a discussion paper for the Task Force to review and approve for the JEC.

## **7. Subcommittee Reports**

### **Arts Community Development Committee (ACDC)**

P. Broughton reported that she and P. Felices-Luna presented the Capacity Building Plan to the Community User Advisory Group and other arts community representatives. There was a good turnout, and 100% approval to move the Capacity Building Plan forward to City Council as the plan to prepare the arts community for the future Arts Centre. The Arts Council is the body that is the recommended leader for the plan, providing there are sufficient resources available. P. Broughton and R. Cann will be working on a resource matrix of human, financial and other resources needed, and what is available from various sources. Some groups have not yet provided feedback, but they've all been contacted and have given their support. S Palmieri and P Felices-Luna will be presenting at Council on April 12. Support is requested of the Task Force at Council Chambers.

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

R. Ritchell noted that the two chairs were not at the last CUAG meeting. R. Cann stated that the last CUAG meeting focused on the ACDC presentation. In addition the group determined they did not need to meet in the near future, given the delay in the project, but would be ready to meet again when needed.

### **Outreach Subcommittee**

L. Fritshaw shared the release of the first Inspire newsletter, which was the major push since the last meeting. Signups on the website have doubled to over 200. She noted that plans for the year have been submitted to R. Cann for inclusion in the workplan. She noted that a presentation done by R. Cann has been taped and there are plans to upload it to YouTube so that everyone can access it. This will be used as a training tool for the Outreach volunteers in preparation for doing presentations around the community. L. Fritshaw and A. Lefstein noted the two tradeshow the committee managed over the past two months went really well and they were recognized in SNAP St. Catharines.

## **8. Project and City Updates**

R. Cann reported that the JEC expects to hear in April or May about Brock's Provincial funding.

City updates include:

- Restructuring for Recreation and Community Services has been approved and the department will have four divisions. Culture is in the Programs and Cultural Services

Division, with the Museum and Recreation programs. Morningstar Mill has been added to the Culture portfolio

- Jennifer Tupling begins as full time Culture Coordinator next week
- Canada's Navy Concert Band will be held May 12, 2010 as a fundraiser for the War Memorials. All are invited to attend – tickets are \$5.
- Twelfth Night, a Driftwood Theatre production, is coming to Montebello Park on July 24th
- Three artists have been short listed in the public art competition for the future Aquatics Library Facility, including one local artist.
- The City is currently revamping its website for launch on May 25, 2010
- Work is moving forward on the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Deb Slade, Executive Director at the Centre for the Arts, Brock University, is the Culture Representative on the Community Advisory Committee.
- Annie sends her good-byes and is sorry to no longer be working with this committee.

#### **9. Brock University and Marilyn I. Walker SFPA Update - *Derek***

No report.

#### **10. Other Business**

- T. Cotton reported that he met with Rick Lane, who is behind the committee.
- The Downtown Development and Revitalization Committee will be presenting at the Arts Council's AGM on Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm
- The Downtown Association is hosting a Heritage Walk on April 5, and there are Downtown Ghost Walks every full moon.

#### **11. Next Meeting: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, 7:00-8:30pm, Committee Room 1, City Hall**

(Note: Meeting revised from original schedule)

**Motion to Adjourn:** Moved by L. Fritshaw