

Minutes

Tuesday, December 01, 2015

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

Present:

Monica Dufault, Rosemary Hale, Sandy Middleton, Wynne Nicholson, Jennifer Wallace, Peter Wing, Councillor Joe Kushner, Councillor Bruce Williamson

Regrets:

Jeff Burch, Vickie Fagan, Jennifer Hay (ex-officio), Andrea Wilson, Councillor Carlos Garcia

Staff Liaison:

Rebecca Cann, Ashley Judd-Rifkin

1. Call meeting to order (J. Wallace)

6:01

2. Introductions

Roundtable introductions for new committee member Rosemary Hale.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Two items added under 8.8:1.

4. Motion to approve the Agenda for December 1, 2015

Moved: M. Dufault

Carried

5. Motion to approve the amended minutes of November 3, 2015

Moved: W. Nicholson

Carried

6. Business arising from the minutes

None

7. Correspondence

None

8. Business

8.1 Arts Awards Subcommittee Report – W. Nicholson / M. Dufault

There was further discussion about the “Making a Difference” award name and category. As a result, the Arts Awards Subcommittee proposed to just update the description of the award and not change the name. As well, the Subcommittee proposed to merge the “Volunteer in the Arts” award with the “Making a Difference” award.

Motion: To include volunteers as eligible for the “Making a Difference” award; to eliminate the “Volunteer in the Arts” award; and to rename the “Arts Community Builder” award to the “Making a Difference” award.

Moved by: M. Dufault

Carried.

Motion: To have the “Patron of the Arts” award not include a \$500 prize but, instead, have the winner name an artist or arts organization of their choice to receive the cheque.

Moved by: M. Dufault

Carried.

There was a short discussion around the lifetime achievement award. It was agreed that whether or not to award one in 2016 would be an agenda item for the February 2016 ACAC meeting. Members were asked to bring names for consideration.

Motion to accept report: S. Middleton

Carried.

8.2 SCCIP Subcommittee Report – No report

8.3 Courthouse Task Force Report – J. Wallace

The Courthouse Task Force drafted a letter of inquiry about the Courthouse and sent it to Coun. C. Garcia, who sent it on to Brian York (Manager of Economic Development). B. York responded that “The future of the courthouse will form part of a larger project that will be coming to Council for information and approval. The intention is to take a more comprehensive look at downtown development . . .” B. York also noted that, “staff successfully applied for funding from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to conduct a hotel feasibility study for both Downtown St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie. This study is being conducted by Cushman & Wakefield who have an array of experience, network and success in the hotel industry.”

The Task Force is now in a holding pattern until the feasibility study is completed. The Task Force and the Heritage Committee have agreed to keep each other in the loop regarding further information and developments about the Courthouse.

A discussion took place that included:

- A suggestion to invite Jane Gardner from Carousel Players to hear about their plans.
- The rationale for the City doing a hotel study.
- The need for a study about adaptive re-use and creative mixed use, not just bricks and mortar.
- The value of an entity like Artscape because of their unique expertise and fostering of cross-sector sharing of space.
- The need for activity within the building to preserve its future.
- Questions as to why the Ministry of Tourism is investing in a hotel study when it is contra-indicated from a cultural perspective.
- Questions for the City's Economic Development manager including: Are there any opportunities to have input? Can the scope of the study be broadened? Who is doing the other work of taking "a more comprehensive look at downtown development..." ? Is the downtown development committee involved?
- Invite B. York to the next ACAC meeting
- Should there be a joint meeting between ACAC, Heritage committee and the downtown development committee to look at all the issues?

It was suggested that a letter from ACAC to the Ministry of Tourism should be written, expressing concerns about the investment in the study. A list of cc's was suggested.

Motion to direct P. Wing to draft a letter to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Made by: L. J. Brauweiler

Carried

ACTION: P. Wing will draft a letter to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for the Committee to review at their next meeting.

Motion to accept report: M. Dufault

Carried

8.4 Cultural Funding Task Force Report – J. Wallace

The CFTF held Community Consultations on November 17th and 18th with over 12 presentations from members of the arts and culture community. The Task Force is meeting tomorrow to review the draft report written by R. Cann and the 19 recommendations made by staff. A Task Force report will be presented to Council on Dec.14.

The report recommends changes to SCCIP, specifically that the program focus on arts and reduce its commitment to heritage and ethnocultural organizations. It is evident that the program needs more money, and the report proposes a 3-year plan to: stabilize, build and strengthen investment in the arts sector.

R. Cann reported on the Mayor's interest in establishing a fundraising activity for the arts, specifically SCCIP, by cultivating support from the business community. There is real interest and commitment from the Mayor to establish a fundraiser.

Motion to accept report: R. Hale

Carried

8.5 Cultural Sustainability Committee Report – No report.

8.6 Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann

- Staff installed art in the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre before the opening weekend and have been involved in developing the process for video creation for the digital art wall.
- Staff participated in the FOPAC open house on Nov.15, engaging with the community and promoting cNiagara and public art.
- The restored bronzes have been re-installed on the cenotaph as part of a restoration project that began in 2009 -- and is now finished.
- The contract for new arts award designer is in development.
- The CFTF has taken the majority of staff time lately and there will be more work from this process, including revising SCCIP.
- Hoping to have 2 co-op students for the winter/spring term.

Motion to accept report: P. Wing

Carried

8.7 Report on Provincial Cultural Strategy Town Hall

M. Dufault presented the draft letter that she wrote on behalf of the ACAC to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, regarding Developing a Culture Strategy for Ontario. The letter was circulated yesterday to all Committee members. A discussion around the letter followed with members recommending some small changes to it.

It was suggested that there should be some people cc'd on the letter, including: MPP Jim Bradley, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, both City Heritage Committees, City Council, MP Chris Bittle and MP Vance Badaway.

The letter will include a link to the City's culture plan.

Motion for the amended letter to be approved for signature and distribution.

Made by: S. Middleton

Carried

8.8 Other Business

8.8.1 Sandra Merk's resignation

Issue is: ACAC needs another member. Propose to the Cultural Sustainability committee that they approve another applicant from the intake of applications in October.

8.8.2 Schedule of meetings for 2016

There was some discussion around changing the meeting time. The Committee agreed that meetings should take place the same day (the first Tuesday of the month) but at 5:30 p.m. instead.

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Burgoyne Woods Room, 3rd floor, City Hall

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: L. J. Brauweiler Carried

Attachments/Links:

1. M. Dufault's draft letter, on behalf of ACAC, to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport RE: Developing a Culture Strategy for Ontario.
2. Correspondence between Coun. C. Garcia and B. York, regarding the Courthouse Task Force's inquiries about the status of the building.