



City of St. Catharines
Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Committee Room 1

Present: Tanya Faulkner, Councillor Heather Foss, Angela Harris, Stephanie Jones, Wynne Nicholson, John Storm, Peter Vietgen, David Vivian (Chair)
Regrets: Councillor Mark Elliott, Nicolle Lalonde, Rick Rochon, Lilita Stripnieks
Absent: Kim Payne
Staff: Rebecca Cann, Jennifer Tupling

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda dated February 3, 2010.

Moved: H. Foss

Seconded: T. Faulkner

Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held December 2, 2009; with the change of approved heritage designations from two to one in the Report from the Heritage Committee.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: A. Harris

Carried.

3. Business Arising

J. Storm requested an update on the submission of the Culture Committee's letter to the Region's Culture Committee regarding the Regional Culture Plan. D. Vivian provided an overview to the committee and reported that no formal response has been received at this time, though one is expected. R. Cann reported that the Region's Culture Plan is moving forward and an Integrated Planning Committee meeting will be held on February 24th with the plan expected to go to Regional Council on March 4th. J. Storm inquired about next steps that the Culture Committee could take in this manner. The committee agreed that it was important to communicate with other such municipal committees within the region while not isolating other communities. D. Vivian will contact the chairs of comparable committees in the region to discuss similar matters facing municipal bodies. R. Cann will speak with related staff.

4. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

The Culture Committee reviewed a recent letter sent to them from Jane Gardner of Carousel Players expressing appreciation for their SCCIP funding.

5. Subcommittee Reports

ACDC: S. Jones presented the committee with the latest draft of the Capacity Building Plan. She described the changes that had occurred within the plan since the last draft; most notably how the partnerships were presented and reorganized within the plan. She described the presentation process that would occur with the plan's stakeholders. The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council board have approved support of the plan in principal including the amendment that suggests that the Arts Council is the most appropriate body to lead the plan's implementation. The greatest concern of the Arts Council board is the resources

– financial and human – required for implementation and where these funds will come from.

S. Jones explained that the plan will be presented to the Niagara Centre for the Arts Taskforce on February 4th who will bring it to City Council, after a review by the Community Users Advisory Committee at their February 25th meeting. The Culture Committee should expect a final presentation at their March 3rd meeting. Any feedback that the committee has before this date should be forwarded to R. Cann. Cultural Services will provide a PDF of the draft plan.

Planning: J. Storm explained that the subcommittee has yet to meet this year but at their next meeting they will be discussing the draft of the City's Official Plan which has recently been released. He expressed to the committee that public meetings will be held regarding the plan and they are looking for feedback from the community, he encourages members of the committee to attend. Cultural Services will provide the committee with a list of these dates and a link to the draft plan online. The planning subcommittee will distribute points of interest to the group. W. Nicholson also requested that the subcommittee forward any additional information or observations after they have met to review the plan.

SCCIP: Nothing to report.

Arts Awards Working Group: W. Nicholson reviewed the email sent from Jane Gardner after the 2009 Trillium Awards. The committee discussed the point regarding acknowledging educators who encourage creative expression in their classroom. R. Cann reminded the group that Carousel Players presents the Nora Morgan Award each year to a local educator. H. Foss also presented the fact that the award could most likely only be presented to a teacher in a St. Catharines institution and the School Boards are a regional system. R. Cann noted that the Region of Niagara has included the possibility of developing an awards program in their Cultural Plan. The group discussed utilizing the Innovation in the Arts Award to honour educators. The committee also looked at re-wording the Awards criteria to express "awarded to those individuals that have made a sustained and significant contribution to the arts in St. Catharines" to include those who practice their craft in St. Catharines but may not reside within the city. The subcommittee will examine these points, along with marketing ideas at their upcoming meeting and report back to the committee in March.

The other major point that the committee wished to address was the confusion created with the title of the awards and its similarity to the Ontario Trillium Foundation from which many local arts groups receive funding. The group also felt that the Awards' name does not best reflect the City of St. Catharines. The committee discussed this and presented a motion addressing the issue.

Motion: That the Recreation and Community Services division of the City of St. Catharines change the name of the Trillium Awards to the Garden City Awards, to reduce confusion in the community with relation to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Moved: A. Harris

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried.

6. 2010 Schedule of Meetings and review of final term agenda

D. Vivian presented the draft 2010 schedule to the committee. He then presented them with the suggestion of reviewing the committee's past activities and developing a workplan for the remaining year of their term. He suggested this would assist the next Culture Committee in the upcoming term. The committee discussed different approaches for completing these processes. At a previous meeting Rick Lane offered to provide assistance to the committee and R. Cann also suggested that it might be an ideal opportunity for a Skills Share assignment for a student. The group also considered how this process would reflect with other committees that they are connected to, ie PAAC, NCAT etc. It was decided that to begin the process each subcommittee would develop a timeline and brief history of activities. Representatives from each subcommittee will produce this information for the March 3rd meeting.

7. Report from the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)

P. Vietgen reported that PAAC will be meeting for the first time this year in a couple of weeks, nothing to report at this time.

R. Cann gave a brief update on the progress of the Wartime Neighbourhoods exhibit that Cultural Services and the Heritage Committee have joined on. The opening reception will take place at City Hall on February 19th at 4:00pm. She also reported that Cultural Services has recently framed and hung a painting produced during the recent Olympic Celebration at Market Square. The painting was donated by RBC, and she encouraged everyone to check it out.

8. Report from Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force (NCAT)

R. Cann reported that this committee did not meet in January. Recently the group has had discussions regarding including a pipe organ in the facility, suggested by a potential fundraiser. They are also undergoing an evaluation of their tasks and terms of reference; looking at what this committee will do within the year.

9. Report from Heritage Committee

H. Foss reported that the Heritage Committee is currently working on the previously mentioned Wartime Neighbourhoods exhibit. At the last meeting the committee discussed their projects and priorities for 2010. This includes but is not limited to, a joint victory garden project with the Green Committee, a new plaque at the cemetery. In addition the HC is moving forward the Power Glen Heritage district, the work of the 1812 subcommittee and work on the list of historically significant buildings within St. Catharines.

10. Report from Cultural Services Staff

Leisure Guide: The guide is in the final stages of completion and will be available soon. The culture section has gone through some changes and is focused on encouraging the community to participate in the arts and heritage.

Capacity Building Plan: Staff have been very involved in finalizing and designing the final draft plan.

1812 Taskforce: R. Cann has met with members of the 1812 Taskforce to collect information required for the requested Report to Council.

Lakeside Park Carousel: Cultural Services is approaching a busy time in regards to the Carousel. Preparations and improvements are scheduled for completion by the May opening deadline.

Office Organization: Cultural Services has been working on filing and organization needed with the conclusion of the calendar year.

Salesforce: Cultural Services is nearing the completion of an almost two year project to structure and populate a database with all SCCIP project information.

St. Catharines Website: The updated city website is scheduled to rollout on May 25, 2010. It is still unknown how the Cultural section will be situated on the site.

Young Canada Works Grant: Cultural Services recently submitted a grant to the Young Canada Works program. If successful a Curatorial Assistant will be joining the staff for 16 weeks this summer.

11. Other Business

D. Vivian noted the distributed article regarding the City's Budget Committee's request for community input. He highlighted the online survey available to residence and the Open Houses which the committee will be hosting. He encouraged members of the Culture Committee to participate in this process, more information is available at;
<http://www.stcatharines.ca/cityservices/citydepartments/fms/budgets.asp> and the survey is online at;
<http://www.stcatharines.ca/resources/10SurveyOperBudget.pdf>.

D. Vivian reminded the group that there is currently no representation from Culture Committee on the Niagara Centre for the Arts Taskforce (NCAT). He appealed for a volunteer with performing arts knowledge/expertise to join this committee. S. Jones volunteered to join NCAT as a representative of the Culture Committee and will provide a report during meeting.

S. Jones noted that on a recent visit to the Niagara Square Mall in Niagara Falls she got a chance to view the 'Arts and Culture Hall of Fame' which that city's Culture Committee has put on permanent display. She remarked on the visibility this provides in the community - something for this committee to keep in mind.

12. Roundtable

Upcoming community culture events include:

- HOT TALKS, The Truth About Art Theft; Thursday February 4th at 7:00pm;
- Suitcase in Point fundraising event, The Big Time Theatre Awards; Saturday March 20th – more information to come;
- Possible Downtown waiter competition, involving wait staff from Downtown restaurants;
- VERVE at Rodman Hall; Friday February 12, 8pm – 11pm;

- Cuban Surrealism presented by CRAM at Pan Café February 13th to April 4th with a special artist talk followed by an authentic Cuban dinner on February 13th starting at 6pm;
- Lyndesfarne Theatre presents 'An Affair of the Heart' at the Sullivan Mahoney Courthouse Theatre; February 11th to the 28th;
- Chorus Niagara performs St. John Passion Bach on March 6th in Grimsby and March 7th in St. Catharines;
- Primavera Concerts presents Anagnoson and Kinton on February 7th at 3pm;
- Primavera Concerts is having a Crimeswappers fundraising event on February 13th at St. Barnabas Church;
- The Department of Dramatic Arts at Brock presents Big Love February 11th to the 13th;
- New interactive exhibit open at the St. Catharines Museum 'Pack your Bags' runs from January 16th to April 11th.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday March 3, 2009; 6:00pm. – Ante Room, 3rd floor, City Hall

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm