



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

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

1. Approval of Agenda

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

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held February 3, 2010.

Moved: S. Jones

Seconded: W. Nicholson

Carried.

3. Business Arising

The committee asked for an update on the motion passed during the last meeting to change the title of the Trillium Awards to the Garden City Awards. R. Cann reported that the motion was presented to Rick Lane, Director of Recreation and Community Services, and then passed on to Mike Anderson, the staff member who organizes the Trillium Awards. There has been no response to the motion to date. W. Nicholson will follow-up with R. Lane.

The group requested an update on the letter sent to the Region of Niagara's Culture Committee regarding the Culture Plan. R. Cann noted that a response to the letter has been sent and is expected to arrive within the week. Once it has been delivered staff will scan and forward it to the Culture Committee. The committee then discussed the Culture Plan presentation to Regional. They noted that the Plan has not been made available online nor has it been distributed to the broader community.

4. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

The Culture Committee reviewed a recent email from Nicolle Lalonde announcing her resignation from the Culture Committee. The Committee accepted the resignation and staff will forward a thank-you letter to Nicolle.

D. Vivian noted the group had received a call for applications for the Community Advisory Committee, participating in the City's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan process.

<http://www.stcatharines.ca/resources/ICSP%20CAC%20Ad%20Feb%202010%20correction.pdf>. He encouraged members to forward the call to anyone they may know with a cultural background and expertise who may be interested.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Community Development Committee: S. Jones is consulting with Pablo Felices-Luna regarding the history of this committee; she will distribute it to the Culture Committee once it is completed. R. Cann reported on the recent Community User Advisory group (CUAG) meeting where ACDC presented the Capacity Building Plan. There was broad representation at the event and attendees were supportive of the plan. It was accepted unanimously. R. Cann noted that the Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force will present the plan to City Council on April 12th. The original presentation will be distributed to the committee.

Planning: J. Storm reported that the Planning Subcommittee will be making a presentation to City Council on May 10th in support of the Official Plan and the presence of culture within it. The subcommittee is still meeting with the planners to discuss some of the language within the Plan and issues associated with zoning. He then presented the Culture Committee with an overview of the Planning Subcommittee's history. This summary will be distributed to committee members with all others. He concluded by reminding the Committee there are a few Public Meetings remaining regarding the Official Plan.

SCCIP: No report.

Arts Awards Working Group: W. Nicholson reviewed this group's history and activities. The outline will be distributed to the Culture Committee. W. Nicholson reported on the group's most recent meeting where they discussed in more depth the matters regarding the Arts Awards which had been reviewed at prior committee meetings. These mainly included matters regarding honouring educators and those that are not residents of St. Catharines. She explained their process and results. In the matter of educators the group decided that the Innovation in the Arts Award is an optimal category to recognize these individuals. They will encourage nominators to use this award for educators. In the matter of only residents being eligible to receive the Arts Awards, the original documentation presented to Council at the conception of the revealed this is not a requirement.

Motion: That the eligibility of the Arts Awards be changed from *Permanent Resident to an artist who has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the vibrant arts community in St. Catharines.*

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: M. Elliott

Carried.

6. Evaluation Process – Next Steps

D. Vivian reviewed a draft process developed by R. Cann. The group asked about budget range and R. Cann suggested \$1,000 - \$2000, depending on requirements. An RFP will need to be developed and R. Cann noted there is no time in the next two months to initiate this. The committee reviewed the timeframe for the process and concluded that a facilitated session should be held mid September to mid October.

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

P. Vietgen reviewed the Public Art Advisory Committee's mandate and body of work for the group. He reviewed past and current projects such as; the aquatic/library facility public art call, the exhibit program at City Hall, the de-accessioning done within the civic art collection; and the next Juried exhibit, Shoot High – Go Low.

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

R. Cann reported that Task Force volunteers recently managed booths at two expos to promote the Arts Centre. The first edition of the Inspire Newsletter will be distributed in the next two weeks to those that signed-up. R. Cann reported that she recently made a presentation to the National Association of Federal Retirees. This presentation was recorded so it can be used as a training tool for NCAT members.

9. Report from Heritage Committee

No report at this time.

10. Report from Cultural Services Staff

Home from the War: The exhibit is currently on display at City Hall. The project has been extremely well received by the community and local media. As a result more former residents of these neighbourhoods have stepped forward with their stories.

New Website: A new City of St. Catharines website is in the works. Cultural Services will be located in a section called Experience In St. Catharines, along with tourism. Other changes will include more current web-technology.

Aquatic-Library Facility, Public Art: 17 submissions were received and will be reviewed later this month.

Murals: R. Cann has drafted a report for Council. The Murals Subcommittee is developing guidelines for murals.

Mapping and Cultural Planning Workshop: Cultural Services staff have just returned from a two day conference in Toronto regarding Cultural Plans and Mapping. It was very informative and they look forward to utilizing the data and knowledge gained.

Staffing: This is Annie Wilson's last week with Cultural Services.

Restructuring: It is believed that restructuring will be presented to staff in the near future. It is still unknown who this will effect Cultural Services.

Shoot High – Go Low: The deadline for submission has now passed. The timeline for this exhibit will be altered slightly as a result of the *Home from the War* exhibit.

UN Peacekeepers: R. Cann recently made a presentation to the UN Peacekeepers regarding the war monuments of St. Catharines, most notably

Private Watson. The response was positive and she was able to clear-up some misconceptions regarding the recent media coverage on the original report to Council.

11. Other Business

R. Cann highlighted in more depth the changes to the City of St. Catharines' website and how these changes would reflect on Culture Services as well as the Culture Committee.

12. Roundtable

Upcoming community culture events include:

- HOT TALKS, Mark Kingwell with discussant Derek Knight – March 4th 7pm at Rodman Hall Art Centre;
- Carousel Players continues to present *Danny King of the Basement* throughout Niagara schools, and thanks to funding from Canadian Tire Services were able to take the show to schools that could not normally afford the fees;
- Garden City Productions will be presenting *The Fantastics* from March 12th to the 28th;
- The St. Catharines and Area Arts Council are hosting two upcoming workshops. One is a series regarding fundraising in the private sector and the other is about social media. They will also be having a city wide garage sale to raise funds for the Arts Council, www.stcartsCouncil.ca;
- *In the Soil: Niagara's Homegrown Festival* is currently in the jury phase. The festival takes place April 15 to 24' www.inthesoil.on.ca;
- Willowbank has released the topics of their 2010 Lecture Series, all are interesting and should be investigated, <http://www.willowbank.ca/content/school/lecture-series/index/>;
- 4tripple5 in Niagara Falls has now closed;
- Brock Connections will be presenting *Bhopal* by Rahut Varma at Brock Studio ST 107 on March 4th and 5th.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday May 5, 2010; 6:00pm. – Ante Room, 3rd floor, City Hall

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm