



City of St. Catharines
Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Ante Room

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair, D. Vivian, welcomed K. Reichheld to the meeting and gave her an opportunity to address the group. He then led the group in a roundtable introduction of the committee members present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda dated August 17, 2010.

Moved: P. Vietgen

Seconded: J. Storm

Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held May 5, 2010.

Moved: S. Jones

Seconded: W. Nicholson

Carried.

4. Business Arising

Members of the Planning Subcommittee made a presentation to Council on June 7, 2010 regarding the Garden City Plan (Official Plan). J. Storm reported that there was a good turn out from the public and quite a few presentations. The draft was approved at a later date following a staff report responding to concerns identified that night. The Plan has now gone to the Regional Municipality of Niagara for approval.

5. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

Nothing at this time.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Community Development Committee: S. Jones reported that ACDC had met and determined they have achieved their mandate. They will now be passing the 'gauntlet' to a new task force that will oversee the implementation of *Building the Arts of St. Catharines - A Plan for Sector Growth | 2010 – 2015*. R. Cann handed out a document outlining the potential partners being recommended to lead the plan. She discussed the reasoning behind the choices per strategy and noted the Culture Committee has been included in four strategies, with a lead role on one – *Encourage Creation of Endowment*. She explained that similar presentations were being made to the other potential partners. She concluded by highlighting that the Culture Committee's suggested role directly relates to their current mandate -- the Municipal Cultural Policy.

Arts Awards Working Group:

(S. Jones declared a conflict of interest and left the room.)

W. Nicholson reported that 10 nominations were received this year -- an overview of these nominations was distributed. She noted that the Working Group had a difficult time selecting recipients this year. Many of the issues were a result of the sometimes vague eligibility regarding the awards and it was noted that the Subcommittee's recommendations for 2010 are not all consistent with past practice of the Committee. The group discussed the difference between an emerging and an established artist and agreed that definitions of each were required for next year, including years of professional practice and/or age as a potential criteria. The group also decided that an award in these two categories (Excellence in the Arts) should only be presented to an individual, as stated in the eligibility, not an organization. They will consider inclusion of organizations in award categories other than "innovation in the arts."

Action: The Working Group recommended that letters of encouragement be sent to nominators of unsuccessful applications, to encourage them to seek feedback for the future. They will meet to discuss the issues raised and report back to the Culture Committee at the December meeting with recommendations for changes to the awards program.

W. Nicholson presented the Working Group's recommendations for the 2010 Arts Awards, as follows:

Excellence in the Arts: Emerging – Essential Collective Theatre Company
Excellence in the Arts: Established – Robert Cooper and Carolyn Wren
Innovation in the Arts – Founders of *In the Soil: Niagara's Homegrown Arts Festival* (Joe Lapinski, Sara Palmieri, Annie Wilson and Jordy Yack)
Mayor's Patron of the Arts Award – John Tiffin, Merchant Ale House

Motion: That the Arts Awards Working Group's recommendations for the 2010 awards recipients be accepted.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Harris

Lost.

Motion: That John Tiffin; owner of the Merchant Ale House, be awarded the 2010 Mayor's Patron of the Arts Award.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Harris

Carried.

Motion: That the founders of *In the Soil: Niagara's Homegrown Arts Festival* (Joe Lapinski, Sara Palmieri, Annie Wilson and Jordy Yack), be awarded the 2010 Innovation in the Arts Award.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried.

Motion: That Robert Cooper be awarded the 2010 Excellence in the Arts: Established Award.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried.

Motion: That Carolyn Wren be awarded the 2010 Excellence in the Arts: Established Award.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Harris

Lost.

The Committee noted that all nominations for 2010 were worthy candidates and hope to

see some of these nominations again in the future with changes as appropriate to the categories and award criteria.

Planning: J. Storm reported that the Subcommittee will be moving its focus from the Official Plan (as reported on during Business Arising) to the Municipal Cultural Policy/Plan renewal. He explained there are possible grants available in the new year to assist with the process and that the Planning Subcommittee will be arranging their next meeting to discuss this.

SCCIP: R. Cann reported that the SCCIP Subcommittee met in June to discuss issues regarding the current St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy. She reported that she ran a first-time applicant workshop in July and estimated seven first-time applicants were in the works. R. Cann also reported that the Subcommittee has discussed the issues related to the two mural projects supported through SCCIP and have agreed to withdraw the special requirements, thus allowing the projects to move forward.

7. Evaluation Process

Comments on 3-year history of Subcommittee Activity: R. Cann requested that the committee review the completed document regarding the 3-year history of all the Subcommittees and return with any corrections or comments.

Review Sample Terms of Reference from other Communities: R. Cann answered the group's questions regarding the homework and source material. She suggested that the document developed by this committee will not be as specific as others they have researched because the Corporation does not have a set format for Terms of Reference for its Committees of Council, like some other municipalities.

Actions: The Culture Committee agreed to submit their homework regarding the sample Terms of Reference to J. Tupling by August 27, 2010. These comments will then be collated and re-distributed to the committee prior to the next meeting. They also determined that the Planning Subcommittee will develop the draft Terms of Reference for the Culture Committee.

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

Deferred.

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

No report.

10. Report from Heritage Committee

No report.

11. Report from Cultural Services Staff

Niagara Centre for the Arts: Prism Partners Inc. has been appointed Project Managers for the arts centre project. A committee formed of Brock University and City of St. Catharines representatives is currently reviewing 34 responses to the architectural Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) that recently went out. The next step will be developing a short list from these proposals.

Cultural Services Staffing: Kathleen Powell has been appointed Supervisor of Museum Operations/Curator for the St. Catharines Museum, which is now part of the Programs and Cultural Services division. Cultural Services was also successful in their application for a Curatorial Assistant student and hired Miriam Cunningham, who is currently working on updating TMS, completing the cataloguing of the Lakeside Park Carousel and other projects.

Action: Staff will invite her to attend a Culture Committee meeting.

Navy Centennial Concert: The concert held on May 12 raised \$3,000 for the restoration of the St. Catharines War Memorials. Cultural Services is discussing a possible collaboration with the Niagara Youth Orchestra, which is fundraising for a trip to Second World War sites in Europe.

Shakespeare in the Park: The event was a great success, despite rain – 180 people turned out. A member of the presenting company, Driftwood Theatre, stated it was the best turnout for a first-time performance in a new city. The plan at this point is for them to return in 2011.

Circle of Friends: A new contract has been signed extending the installation of Rod Dowling's sculpture on the side lawn of City Hall. The Public Art Advisory Committee hopes to release a Call for Submissions in the coming months for a new installation in 2011.

Aquatics Facility Public Art Project: The selection team has yet to make a final selection but they are in progress.

Corporate Sustainability Plan: This is moving forward and will be coming to the Culture Committee in the future.

stcatharines.ca: The new City website went live on June 19, 2010. There are some changes in the location of Cultural Services information and a new landing page is being developed for the 'Experience In' page. Staff will send out a link for the Committee to review the new website.

City Hall Exhibits: *Treasured Legacy: More than 100 years of Greeks in Niagara* will be installed next week and be on display until October 22. *On Leave in Paris, 1945: Found Objects from the Collection of Major Hartley M. Barlow* will follow this exhibit.

12. Other Business

No other business at this time.

13. Roundtable

Upcoming community culture events include:

- Essential Collective Theatre Company will be hosting their annual *Wine and Reading* on September 15 starting at 6pm at Hernder Estates Winery,
- Theatre Beyond Words will be hosting a BBQ Fundraiser on September 1 at 6pm,
- Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects will be hosting a new fundraiser *Taps, Tastes and Talents* on August 21 starting at 7:30pm in the Market Square,

- The Niagara Centre for the Arts Task Force is hosting a presentation with Janis Barlow, *Creating Successful Performing Arts Centres: Lessons from the Field* on August 24 at 7pm in the Sullivan Mahoney Courthouse Theatre,
- The St. Catharines Library's Teen Writing club released their book *From The Back Room: Teen Writers Group* earlier in the summer – copies are on-sale at the library,
- Niagara Reads Niagara 2010 will be hosted by the St. Catharines Public Library throughout October, for a full list of readings visit <http://www.stcatharines.library.on.ca/content/nreads>,
- Arts of China: Glimpses of an Ancient Civilization produced by the Royal Ontario Museum will be opening at the St. Catharines Museum on September 11,
- The seven members of the Downtown Alliance of the Performing Arts (DAPA) will be launching their 2010/2011 season at Sullivan Mahoney Courthouse Theatre on September 9 at 4:30,
- The 5th annual Niagara Greek Festival will be held September 10 – 12th.

Next Meeting: Wednesday September 1, 2010; 6:00pm. – Committee Room 1, 3rd floor, City Hall

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm