



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

City of St. Catharines
Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 19, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Ante Room

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda dated October 19, 2010.

Moved: T. Faulkner

Seconded: W. Nicholson

Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held September 1, 2010 as amended.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Harris

Carried.

3. Business Arising

None.

4. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

Staff shared a post Trillium Awards article featured in The Standard, which contained two images of Arts Award recipients. The Committee was pleased to see an improvement in the media coverage in the local paper. D. Vivian also shared an email he received from Robert Cooper thanking the Culture Committee for the acknowledgement, stating that he was honoured to be recognized by the St. Catharines' community.

5. Building the Arts of St. Catharines: A Plan for Sector Growth

R. Cann reported on the following:

Update: Council approved the partnership between the City of St. Catharines, Carousel Players and the Centre for the Arts. An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH) for \$102,000.00; the project budget is \$240,000.00.

Arts Plan Oversight Committee: A new committee has been formed to oversee the execution of three major projects related to the capacity building plan; Culture in Niagara website, a Professional Development series and an Arts Education DVD for local schools. Members of the committee include representatives from the City of St. Catharines, Brock Centre for the Arts, Carousel Players, the St. Catharines & Area Arts Council and Chorus Niagara. In addition to the DCH grant, the committee will also submit applications to the Trillium Foundation and the Provincial Strategic Development Fund. They recently met with Manny Fast from Trillium and decided to hold off applying till the March deadline.

Culture Committee Involvement: This is the next intensive initiative by Cultural Services and will relate to the work of the Culture Committee. It may be opportune to have a member of the Culture Committee join APOC as the plan relates to celebrating and promoting the arts as well as financing and resource-development – both the Arts Awards

and SCCIP are relevant to the work of APOC. The APOC Terms of Reference will be developed in the coming weeks and more information on their work will be presented to the Culture Committee in the future.

6. Renew Terms of Reference

Council Minutes Excerpt dated September 27, 2010 re: Consultation with Cultural Organizations and User Groups in the Design of the Downtown Arts Centre: R. Cann gave a brief overview of the Report to Council, the new committee structure for the project and the role of the new User Group Committee. The Niagara Centre for the Arts Taskforce and the Community User Advisory Group will be disbanded once they have developed the selection criteria for the new User Group Committee and made recommendations for its membership. She explained that members of these two retired committees have been encouraged to apply to the new committee, and the Culture Committee could also benefit from these potential new members. The City Councilor selected to Chair the new User Group Committee will also sit on the Culture Committee.

Review Draft Terms of Reference (under separate cover): The group read through the document and reviewed by section. Members of the committee provided feedback on the Terms of Reference draft. R. Cann explained that the committee background and administration information will be beneficial to the incoming Culture Committee, however, the administrative information will be separated from the core Terms of Reference and probably expanded. The group discussed the make-up of the committee and possible membership. They also considered various options regarding exchange of information with other Committees of Council, as many of them relate to the cultural sector.

Action: R. Cann and D. Vivian will make changes to the draft and distribute to Culture Committee members for approval at the November meeting.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards Working Group: W. Nicholson reported that the Trillium Awards were a successful evening with many members of the cultural community in attendance. The group felt that though there was a greater presence of the Arts Awards in the post-media; as discussed above, there is still a greater opportunity to highlight the awards in the public. Marketing the awards and celebrating contributions to the arts would be a great asset to the growth of St. Catharines' arts community. The group discussed other possible events that could reach these goals in the future. These matters will not be resolved before the completion of this committee's term -- recommendations will be made to the incoming Culture Committee to address the possible future of the awards.

Action: The Arts Awards Working Group will meet to discuss recommendations for the next committee and make recommendations for the criteria issues identified earlier in the Awards process.

This matter will be added to the December agenda for discussion.

SCCIP: R. Richon reported that application packages have been distributed to members of the subcommittee for review. 23 applications for funding were received this year with a total demand of \$241,787.00; funds available for distribution total less than half of this, \$82,500.00. Meetings to discuss recommendations for SCCIP funding have been

arranged and recommendations for funding will be presented at the next Culture Committee meeting.

8. St. Catharines International Busker Festival

D. Vivian presented background of a presentation and report that went to Council from Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects requesting \$10,000 in funding for the first annual St. Catharines International Busker Festival. D. Vivian expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation with the Culture Committee and disregard for the current funding structure, SCCIP. The group questioned what precedence this would set in the future; would groups start by-passing the SCCIP process and make requests for funding directly to Council? It was unclear what documentation and information was provided to Council and staff to determine their support of this project. The Committee concluded that policy may be required for future situations related to providing seed money to festival initiatives.

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

P. Vietgen reported that PAAC has selected the theme for their annual juried art exhibit. This year's theme will deal with sustainability, relating to the development of the City's sustainability plan. He read the call for *Tending Our Garden City: A Creative Vision of St. Catharines' Future* to the group and announced that it will be released to the public shortly.

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

R. Cann reported that the short-list of architects for the Art Centre has been released, as per a press release that was forwarded to all committee members.

11. Report from Heritage Committee

H. Foss reported that the Heritage Committee recently unveiled a new plaque marking a pioneer cemetery in the Power Glen district. She encouraged members to visit this location.

12. Report from Cultural Services Staff & Sustainability Strategy Update

R. Cann reported on the following:

- DCH Grant: A grant application was recently submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage to support the work of APOC.
- Exhibit Program: The next exhibit at City Hall will be hung in the next week. *On Leave in Paris, 1945* is a collection of photographs from Major Hartley M. Barlow taken on a day in Paris at the end of WW2. The complete exhibit was originally presented at NAC in 2008 and is on loan from Janis Barlow.

13. Tending the Garden City – Sustainability Strategy Input

Committee members were reminded of the online survey related to the plan and were encouraged to share it with their acquaintances. A discussion paper regarding the plan is also available for those interested. www.stcatharines.ca/en/governin/ProjectsStudies.asp The Committee discussed the need to have dialog in relation to this matter and provide comments for the next Culture Committee.

Action: Include this item on the next agenda for Committee discussion and feedback.

14. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

15. Roundtable

Upcoming community culture events include:

- Essential Collective Theatre Company will be hosting their annual *Haunted Scavenger Hunt*, on Saturday October 23 at 2:30,
- *Arts of China* is currently showing at the St. Catharines Museum,
- The St. Catharines Museum will be holding their annual *Friends of the Museum Day* on November 14; admission is free,
- Rodman Hall recently opened 3 new exhibits; BGL SOLOS, Duncan Macdonald *Little Revolutions* and FASTWÜRMS *Unicorn Tip*,
- Primavera Concerts just released their season and will be hosting a fall fundraiser with B'Nail Israel Synagogue; *Clerical Chef Dinner* on November 14 at 6:00pm,
- Chorus Niagara will be presenting their CN Cinema; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* on November 5 & 6,
- Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects presents Steven Berkoff's *Shakespeare's Villains*; November 4 to 21,
- Deadline for STRUTT submissions have been extended to November 6 at 4pm,
- Lyric Canada 2010, held by Brock University and Shaw Festival, takes place October 21 to 23,
- Brock University's Department of Dramatic Arts presents *Blood Relations* at the Centre for the Arts; November 11 to 13.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 17, 2010; 6:00pm. – Committee Room 1, 3rd floor, City Hall

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:51 pm