



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

City of St. Catharines
Culture Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 5, 2011, 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3rd Floor, Committee Room 1

Present: Tracy Cotton, Councillor Mark Elliott, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Angela Harris, Brian Narhi, Wynne Nicholson, Kathleen Powell, Debbie Slade, Kathy Summers, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson
Regrets: Jeff Burch, Sue Morrison, Kim Payne, Rick Rochon, Laurie Sadowski, Michelle Sigouin, Peter Vietgen
Staff: Rebecca Cann, Lilita Stripnieks, Jennifer Tupling

1. Welcome

R. Cann welcomed the group to the meeting and led the group in roundtable introductions for those that were not at the first meeting. She explained that she would be chairing the meeting until a committee chair was selected.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda dated April 5, 2011.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: E. Fritshaw

Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting held February 22, 2011.

Moved: J. Wallace

Seconded: D. Slade

Carried.

4. Business Arising

R. Rochon submitted the nomination for David Vivian to the Volunteer Recognition Night. Staff has received confirmation of the submission.

5. Correspondence/Articles of Interest

Information Sharing: R. Cann inquired if the committee would like staff to continue forwarding information on events and news relevant to the committee via email, as it is received. The Committee accepted this process. There was a request that where possible, posters are converted to PDFs so that they may be printed and displayed at facilities.

6. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair of the Culture Committee: R. Cann shared the names of the committee members who were nominated or expressed interest in the position of Committee Chair. Some of those that were nominated were appreciative of the gesture but unable to accept due to time restrictions.

Motion: To accept the nomination of Tracy Cotton as Chair of the St. Catharines Culture Committee.

Moved: D. Slade

Seconded: W. Nicholson

Approved.

Vice Chair of the Culture Committee: R. Cann shared the names of the committee members who were nominated or expressed interest in the position of Vice Chair for the committee. Nominated members left the room during candidate discussion.

Motion: To accept the nominations of Elizabeth Fritshaw and Michelle Sigouin as Co-Vice Chairs of the St. Catharines Culture Committee.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: D. Slade

Approved.

T. Cotton chaired the remainder of the meeting.

7. Culture Policy Renewal - Workplan

R. Cann explained that the City of St. Catharines is moving forward on the process of developing a Municipal Culture Plan and that a grant application has been submitted to the Ministry of Culture to assist with this work. She reviewed the workplan that had been developed and submitted as part of the application. R. Cann explained that a Planning Subcommittee of the Culture Committee would assist with this process, which will complete the Plan by April 2012. She asked the committee to review the workplan and encouraged them to submit any comments or questions related to it via email.

8. Planning Subcommittee

R. Cann outlined the work of this subcommittee, the stages of development, next steps and the expected time commitment. R. Cann then asked for volunteers from the Culture Committee to join the Planning Subcommittee.

Action: Staff will arrange a first meeting for the Planning Subcommittee.

9. Review Term Overview

R. Cann reviewed the workplan staff developed for the 2010-2014 term. She highlighted major projects and recurring programs, explaining that work was distributed as evenly as possible keeping other milestones in mind (i.e. the Arts Centre). She reminded the committee that this was a suggested timeline - they may edit it as needed. However, some of the dates are firm, based on guidelines from funders for example. R. Cann also highlighted the timeframe of the Cultural Services budget submission (August), as budget-related requests are required prior to this date to be included in the next fiscal year.

Action: The workplan and its timelines will be reviewed quarterly.

10. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards Subcommittee – W. Nicholson

W. Nicholson reported that the subcommittee met to discuss the release of the upcoming nomination forms and the future of the program. It is too late for this year to make any significant changes. Therefore, the group developed small clarifying changes to the criteria only. She presented these changes to the group. W. Nicholson also explained the upcoming tasks of the subcommittee and their plans to modify the Awards for the future, with the goal to have a new program in place by 2013.

Motion: To accept the changes made to the nomination criteria of the Trillium Arts Awards, as presented by the subcommittee.

Moved: W. Nicholson

Seconded: A. Wilson

Approved.

SCCIP Subcommittee – R. Cann

R. Cann reported that the subcommittee recently met to discuss changes to the SCCIP

submission guidelines. She presented the changes developed by the subcommittee and the reasons for these recommendations. R. Cann also explained that the subcommittee felt it would be beneficial to defer the Artist in the Community Program to allow alterations to the program, which would hopefully lead to more success for the initiative.

Motion: To accept the changes made to the submission guidelines and Artist in the Community Program of the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program, as presented by the subcommittee.

Changes to the Policy recommended for Culture Committee review and Council approval are:

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Current description includes:

Emerging organizations that have been established for less than two years and are not a registered not-for profit corporation may apply.

Change to:

Organizations that are not a registered not-for profit corporation may apply. First-time applicants that are not incorporated are eligible for a maximum of \$3,000.00 in funding.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM- PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Current description:

CDP is intended for new and developing arts, and heritage organizations, for established organizations that work on a project basis, and for organizations undertaking a special one-time cultural initiative, festival or celebration.

Change to:

CDP is intended for new and developing arts, ethnocultural and heritage organizations, for established organizations that work on a project basis, and for cultural organizations undertaking a special one-time cultural initiative, festival or celebration.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM- PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Current description:

Applicant organizations should be a not-for-profit corporation registered with the Province of Ontario and have been active for at least six (6) month.

Change to:

Applicant organizations should be a not-for-profit corporation registered with the Province of Ontario, active for at least twelve (12) months, with publicly accessible activity.

Moved: D. Slade

Seconded: K. Summers

Approved.

Motion: To accept the reports of the Arts Awards and SCCIP subcommittees as presented.

Moved: K. Summers

Seconded: W. Nicholson

Approved.

11. Training Requirements

R. Cann explained that City of St. Catharines volunteers must complete a training session related to safety, accessibility and community/customer relations. This training is mandated by Provincial legislation. The group was poled to determine those that had already completed the program and those that would require the training.

Action: Staff will contact those members not in attendance to determine if they require the training. All participating members will be contacted with scheduling information.

12. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee – J. Tupling

Workplan: A workplan for the term was developed by staff and reviewed by PAAC at the meeting.

Percent for Art Policy: The committee reviewed the recent draft of the Percent for Art Policy. They discussed Provincial legislation as it relates to private sector development, a maintenance fund and the capital projects it would relate to.

Tending Our Garden City: The jury met and selected the works that will be included in the exhibit.

Sculpture at City Hall – Call for Submissions: The Call for Submissions is complete and should be released shortly.

Lakeside Park Carousel: Due to recent chemical changes in the paints used by the Friends of the Carousel to restore the horses, new paint had to be sought that was more durable and sustainable. An enamel paint was selected that is glossier, more durable and will require less time to restore a horse.

Arts Plan Oversight Committee – D. Slade

The group was provided with a description of the projects in the Marketing the Arts of St. Catharines, which stem from the Building the Arts of St. Catharines Plan. \$102,212 in funding was announced from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada Cultural Investment Fund. On March 29 the group hosted a presentation by Kelly Hill, the first in a series of professional development opportunities for the arts community. The RFP for a Marketing Coordinator/Contractor was released on April 2.

Heritage Committee – B. Narhi

The committee updated their subcommittees for the new term. They've started to produce a list of significant individuals related to the history of St. Catharines. This will be utilized for such actions as naming of streets. The 1812 commemorative projects are moving forward. The committee is preparing for the unveiling of their latest plaque marking the Darby Cemetery in June – an invite to attend will be extended to the Culture Committee.

W. Nicholson inquired about the Heritage Awards returning to be a part of the Trillium Awards. Members of the Heritage Committee did not have any information on this topic but will look into it.

User Group Committee – M. Elliott

The group has been meeting extensively to review the building program (size and features of the building) for the Arts Centre. There are budgetary constraints and all stakeholders are working together to find the most viable outcome. The plans from the committee and the architects have gone to costing and the results of these are expected within the week. The city will be hiring a fundraising consultant to increase the funds for the project, which will assist with the budgetary issues.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann

Arts Centre Project: Staff is coordinating a facility tour of performing arts centres for mid-April.

Cultural Services Office: The Cultural Services offices are moving to the St. Catharines Museum on the 2nd floor. The move will occur mid-April. Updated contact information will be forwarded to committees once it is available.

CultureInNiagara.com: In addition to the DCH funding, \$16,800 was approved in the 2011 City of St. Catharines budget to assist with the project, thanks to a motion by Councillor Elliott. The City of St. Catharines is the lead partner on the CultureInNiagara.com website, one of the 3 initiatives within the project.

Culture Plan: \$50,000 was also approved in the City of St. Catharines' budget for the development of a Culture Plan for the City, again, thanks to a motion by Councillor Elliott. An announcement from the Ministry of Culture is expected shortly.

Motion: To accept the reports as presented.

Moved: M. Elliott

Seconded: K. Powell

Approved.

13. Other Business

Nothing at this time.

14. Roundtable

Upcoming community cultural events include:

- The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild currently have an exhibit at the St. Catharines Public Library Main Branch,
- The St. Catharines Downtown Association is featuring 2 different Ghost Walking Tours on full moons through the downtown. Contact E. Fritshaw for tickets elizabeth@stcathdowntown.com
- The inspire website (www.inspireniagara.com), which currently is the only location to find information regarding the Arts Centre project has been re-developed to present information on the groups that will be presenting at the new centre; this change will occur once a new information site regarding the Arts Centre has been developed,
- The museum has undergone a facelift in the lobby. *St. Catharines Cabinet of Curiosities: All Things Big and Small and Strange and Tall* closes May 29, 2011; *Top Secret: Mission Toy* closes May 8, 2011. ***Next:*** *Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet Exhibit* and *Ornamenting the Ordinary: Crafts of South Asia Exhibit*
more info;
<http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/StCatharinesMuseum1.asp>
- A new publication has been released, *Twelve Hours to Save the Country* is a fundraiser for 1812 events and is available for sale at Balls Falls,
- A. Wilson discussed an interesting workshop hosted by the Ontario Museum Association regarding technologies and museums: those interested in more information can contact her,

- The Centre for the Arts is wrapping up its 2010/2011 Season – for a list of final shows visit:
<http://www.arts.brocku.ca/performances/index.php?month=4&year=2011>
- Big Becky is about to break through under the City of Niagara Falls, Rick Mercer featured the tunneling machine on his CBC show, K. Summers has copies if anyone is interested,
- Many of the statistics that Kelly Hill featured in his presentation were used in a recent CBC Radio program with host Jian Ghomeshi, in relation to the Federal Election

Action: Staff will forward the Kelly Hill presentation to the committee.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of April 5, 2011.

Moved: E. Fritshaw **Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:27 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 3, 2011 at 5:00pm – Committee Room 1, 3rd Floor City Hall