



**Minutes**  
City of St. Catharines  
**Culture Committee Meeting**

Tuesday July 5, 2011  
5 – 6:30pm  
Committee Room #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall

**Present:** Melenie Bural, Tracy Cotton (Chair), Councillor Mark Elliott, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Angela Harris, Sue Morrison, Brian Narhi, Kim Payne, Rick Rochon, Lilita Stripnieks, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson

**Regrets:** Wynne Nicholson, Kathleen Powell, Debbie Slade, Kathy Summers, Peter Vietgen

**Absent:** Laurie Sadowski

**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Kelly Dell

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

T. Cotton welcomed Melenie Bural to the Committee as the new representative from the Folk Arts Council. R. Cann introduced Kelly Dell, the new Cultural Planning Assistant who will be working with the Committee on the development of a new Culture Plan.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** to approve the Agenda of July 5, 2011.

Made by: J. Wallace                      Seconded by: A. Wilson                      Carried.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 7, 2011.

Made by: E. Fritshaw                      Seconded by: M. Elliott                      Carried.

**4. Business Arising**

None.

**5. Correspondence**

The Committee agreed to forward a letter received from Jane Gardner of Carousel Players to the Arts Awards Subcommittee for review and recommendations.

**Action:** Arts Awards Subcommittee will let staff know when they would like Jane to attend a meeting for further discussion on potential new arts awards.

**6. Subcommittee Reports**

Arts Awards Subcommittee – E. Fritshaw reported that a community release has been distributed; there have been multiple blasts on facebook and twitter, and brochures have been distributed. She noted that a couple of nominations have already been received. R. Cann shared additional brochures for the Committee to distribute.

SCCIP Subcommittee – R. Rochon reported that the last meeting was June 6<sup>th</sup>; program application materials are now available and an information session is taking place next week.

Planning Subcommittee – R. Cann reported that the last month has been spent hiring a Cultural Planning Assistant, making arrangements for the grant announcement, drafting the Request for Proposal for a consultant and drafting a report that will go to Council on July 25<sup>th</sup> about the project. A meeting of the subcommittee will be arranged in the near future.

## **7. Community Consultation re: Gap in Services left by Arts Council Closure**

L. Fritshaw reported that she and J. Wallace discussed the James Street Night of Art (JSNA) with Jason Cadieux of Essential Collective Theatre and the Arts Mosh Pit to assess options for who could take over the event. The consensus was that it did not make sense to continue it as is, as the In the Soil Festival serves a similar purpose and the JSNA had some site management issues associated with it. The event could be revived if wanted at a future date. R. Cann noted that Candice Turner-Smith was the primary coordinator of the JSNA in the last year or two.

R. Cann noted that two areas of problem relating to the closure of the Arts Council are who will be the end operator of the CultureinNiagara.com website that is in development, and how are communications within and on behalf of, the arts community to be managed in the future? She noted that her office is already getting calls and emails of general inquiries that might otherwise have gone to the Arts Council. She explained that the Cultural Services office used to provide a calendar of events in the Culture news newsletter, which was published in hard copy for 5 years. Once the Arts Council's website and weekly newsletter got going staff determined a newsletter was no longer a City priority but should be the purview of the Arts Council. Their office still has mailing lists from the original Culture News and she is concerned that City staff will now have to address communications within, and for, the community, which puts a new demand on staff.

S. Morrison reported that discussion took place at the Region's Culture Committee and concern was expressed about the loss of the Arts Council. M. Elliott stated that they are wondering about how to encourage the development of a Regional Arts Council.

S. Morrison informed the group that there have been two previous attempts to establish arts councils in Niagara, one in the 70s and one in the 80s. They both got as far as incorporating as not for profits. Funding was an issue back then, too, but cross-regional representation was also a significant issue. There didn't seem to be a critical mass of support and interest back then, and there was little or no political support. Their primary focus seemed to be collaboration, promotion and community awareness.

The Committee discussed what action could be taken and T. Cotton asked the group whether anyone had been contacted by a community member expressing concern. No one had. The group further discussed how they could work with the Region's Culture

Committee in a process to facilitate community discussion about a future arts council, as St. Catharines is bearing the brunt of loss in the situation.

**Motion:** That a letter be drafted from this Committee to the Region's Culture Committee on the subject of the Arts Council's demise and relevance to the community.

Made by M. Elliott

Seconded by E. Fritshaw

Carried.

**Action:** T. Cotton will work with R. Cann to draft letter. (The next meeting of Region's Culture Committee is July 28<sup>th</sup>.)

**Action:** J. Wallace and E. Fritshaw will review some options for Communications and report to the Planning Subcommittee.

## 8. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee – R. Cann reported on the decision made with regard to the Train Station mural proposal that had been presented to the Graffiti Committee. She explained that Shaw Reimer's SCCIP-supported project in Merritton has had a "change of project" approval and the SCCIP funds will now be invested in the Train Station mural. She explained to new members the procedures around this situation and noted that she gets project change requests at least every other year. R. Cann then reported that the PAAC has recommended extending the agreement for Rod Dowling's Circle of Friends for one more year to allow for time to release a Call for Artists for an alternate temporary sculpture on City Hall's lawn.

User Group Committee – Councillor Elliott reported that the schematic design phase is coming to an end and will be going to Council on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Detailed design work has begun and preliminary construction drawings are underway simultaneously so that an early construction phase can begin in the fall. Timelines are being sped up to meet the 2014 deadline. A meeting about a potential pipe organ in the Concert Hall is coming up as a request has been presented to incorporate it into the project.

Arts Plan Oversight Committee – R. Cann reported that the hiring of a DVD contractor has been delayed due to questions around the social media components to be incorporated into CultureinNiagara.com.

Heritage Committee – B. Narhi reported that they had a very successful plaquing ceremony for the Darby Family Burial Plot. The Committee held an Open House on Canada Day at Market Square and many new Canadians were very interested in the information available at the Committee's table. The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 projects are moving forward. Two new appointments are required for the Committee and are in progress. The Province's recommendations for the Burgoyne Bridge are that the original bridge be retained and a new bridge developed alongside. More public meetings are anticipated to discuss this further.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reported that they completed hiring of a Cultural Planning Assistant this past month and a posting is up for a 3-year Culture Coordinator, who will work with the Culture Committee on SCCIP, communications and

other community development initiatives. She noted that other projects over the past month have included the design and distribution of SCCIP program materials, arrangements for a conservator to come and look at the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph, and work on a Request for Proposal for a fundraising consultant for the arts centre. Work in the office continues on the Cultureinniagara.com project and the arts centre, as well as the fall exhibit at City Hall.

S. Morrison inquired as to when an Executive Director for the arts centre will be hired. Councilor Elliott noted a candidate has been selected, the contract is being finalized and a report needs to go to Council to complete the process. He is hopeful the new ED will begin "soon."

## **9. Other Business**

T. Cotton congratulated Lilita Stripnieks on her Woman of Distinction Award this year in the Arts and Culture category.

## **13. Roundtable**

- The Downtown Classic Car Show takes place Saturday July 9 from 9am – 5pm.
- Work is underway on the upcoming Balls Falls exhibit Seeds in Disguise, a travelling exhibit from the ROM partnered with Montreal area artist Deborah Carruthers, who 's work will be included in the exhibit.
- E. Fritshaw invited anyone who is interested to the July 15<sup>th</sup>, 9pm Ghost Walk in Downtown St. Catharines – email her at [elizabeth@stcathdowntown.com](mailto:elizabeth@stcathdowntown.com) if you want to attend.
- Primavera Concerts is sponsoring a bus tour on July 24<sup>th</sup> to the Elora Festival. 2 concerts and lunch is \$141.00 – Departure at 10am. Contact A. Harris at [harris44@sympatico.ca](mailto:harris44@sympatico.ca) for more information.
- A new 1812 Bicentennial publication has come out with a collection of pictures of sailing ships from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It should be available at the Museum and Balls Falls as well as other places very shortly.

## **14. Next Meeting: to be confirmed, due to change required.**

**Motion:** to adjourn: E. Fritshaw

Meeting ended at 6:12pm.