



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

Tuesday August 23, 2011  
5 – 6:30pm  
Committee Room #1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall

**Present:** Melenie Bural, Tracy Cotton (Chair), Elizabeth Fritshaw, Angela Harris, Wynne Nicholson, Kathleen Powell, Rick Rochon, Laurie Sadowski, Peter Vietgen, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson

**Regrets:** Councillor Mark Elliott, Sue Morrison, Brian Narhi, Debbie Slade, Steve Soliski, Lilita Stripnieks

**Absent:** Kim Payne, Kathy Summers

**Staff:** Rebecca Cann, Kelly Dell, Jennifer Tupling

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

T. Cotton welcomed everyone to the August meeting.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** to approve the Agenda of August 23, 2011.

**Made by:** J. Wallace      **Seconded by:** P. Vietgen      **Carried.**

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 5, 2011.

**Made by:** E. Fritshaw      **Seconded by:** R. Rochon      **Carried.**

**4. Business Arising**

None.

**5. Correspondence**

Letter to Region of Niagara Culture Committee (August 4, 2011) – T. Cotton reviewed the letter with the committee, informing them that no response has been received. The committee agreed to wait until the 15<sup>th</sup> of September for a response before following-up.

**Action:** R. Cann will check when the Region of Niagara Culture Committee meets prior to September 15, 2011.

**6. Subcommittee Reports**

Arts Awards Subcommittee – W. Nicholson reported that this year there were 12 nominations in total.

W. Nicholson presented the Working Group's recommendations for the 2011 Arts Awards, as follows:

Excellence in the Arts: Emerging – Deanna Jones

Excellence in the Arts: Established –Carolyn Wren

Innovation in the Arts – SCENE Music Festival (Jennifer Anderson & Steve Levitt)  
Mayor's Patron of the Arts Award – Janis Barlow

R. Cann declared a conflict of interest.

**Motion:** That the Arts Awards Subcommittee's recommendations for the 2011 Arts Awards recipients be accepted.

**Moved:** W. Nicholson

**Seconded:** P. Vietgen

**Carried.**

W. Nicholson reported that the Subcommittee discussed the future needs of the awards in relation to award categories, marketing and nomination process. They felt that these changes should be investigated at more length and that an improved program should be considered with input from the community. R. Cann reminded the group that no more staff assistance is available and any additional tasks would be the responsibility of the Committee, such as fundraising and event planning. She suggested that the group consider inviting individuals with experiences in these areas to join the Arts Awards Subcommittee.

**Motion:** That the Arts Awards Subcommittee begin a review and revamping of the Arts Awards program and take a hiatus from the 2012 Trillium Awards to focus on a successful future for the awards.

**Moved:** W. Nicholson

**Seconded:** A. Harris

**Carried.**

**Action:** W. Nicholson will contact the recipients and their nominators to inform them of their awards, collect information for the awards presentation, and ask them to coordinate any media communications with staff.

SCCIP Subcommittee – R. Rochon reported the committee has not met since the last meeting and that the deadline for application submission is 4:30pm on Friday (August 26). R. Cann reported that there are currently three (3) new applicants expected.

Planning Subcommittee – R. Cann reported that at the last meeting the group was presented with a list of culture plans from 50 other communities, developed in the last five (5) years. They looked at the community engagement strategies that have been used and ideas for moving the process forward. The plans and powerpoint are available on the Planning Wiki - anyone who cannot access it are invited to contact staff. R. Cann noted that Council approved the Culture Plan Development Process (Excerpt of Council minutes sent to Committee). A report will be going to Council on September 12, 2011 to approve a consultant. Staff is continuing work on the communications database, collating contact information from a variety of sources.

## **7. Review of Term Workplan**

The group reviewed where each project stands in relation to the workplan's timetable. Most of the projects are on or close to their projected schedule. At this time there is no major cause for change or concern. The committee will review these timelines again in a couple of months.

## 8. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) – P. Vietgen reported that PAAC has been discussing a proposed piece of public art that would commemorate “First Canadians.” They’ve had concerns regarding the relevancy of the project to S. Catharines; the pre-determined art medium of bronze; the selection of an appropriate site for the project. PAAC has also been discussing the themes for the 2012 exhibit series, including the annual juried show. He also reported that at the last PAAC meeting committee members completed the acquisition process for *The Spirit of St. Catharines* which is not yet formally a part of the Civic Collection.

User Group Committee – R. Cann reported that the project designs are moving forward and the architects are doing a great job accommodating the building program within the budget. A public meeting is tentatively set for September 21, staff will inform the committee when more details are available. Steve Solski, Executive Director has begun work and is meeting with Rebecca on a regular basis. He will be joining Culture Committee. A report will go to Council in the fall, updating them on the progress of the project. Some foundation construction may begin shortly to maximize available time. A draft RFP for a fundraiser has also been produced and should be finalized for the fall.

Arts Plan Oversight Committee – R. Cann reported that the DCH Working Group has hired Candice Turner-Smith as the marketing consultant and that a DVD contractor is in the process of being contracted. The professional development program will announce its first set of programming the first week in September. There have been complications with the CultureinNiagara.com website, both for its end operator, and for the actual updating required. There has been no announcement regarding the Cultural Capital program, which would assist with funding for the website project.

Heritage Committee – R. Cann read a report submitted by B. Narhi along with his regrets: a survey of residents in the Yates Street Heritage Conservation District, will take place in September to obtain their feedback about issues related to heritage districts. A similar survey was done two years ago for the Queen Street HCD. The results will be analyzed and posted on the website at the U of Waterloo.

K. Powell reported that the 1812 Subcommittee have not met recently. However, many of the 1812 projects are moving forward. There are a couple of publications that B. Narhi has been working on that will be released soon. Many of the St. Catharines’ projects are scheduled for 2013 rather than 2012.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reported that the latest exhibit is now on display at City Hall. Urban Metamorphosis will have an opening reception on September 8 at 4:00: invitations will be sent out next week. The new Culture Coordinator should be hired in September. City staff from several departments met with consultants to discuss the restoration of the St. Catharines cenotaph, to address plans for accessibility, conservation and landscaping. A conservator from the Canadian Conservation Institute is visiting St. Catharines to conduct tests on the totem pole to determine its density. The

2012 budget for Cultural Services is currently in development. Staff is working on different communications initiatives including new facebook pages which should be live in September. Work has begun on the train station mural project, which is funded through SCCIP. Progress can be seen at the station and a picture was featured in The Standard.

## **9. Other Business**

T. Cotton inquired about the progress on the New Spectator Arena. R. Cann reported that the City is looking at options for funding. She noted that the Civic Fund has been identified as a resource for monies for the project, and that SCCIP is currently drawn from this fund.

## **10. Roundtable**

- The Niagara Folk Arts Centre has received funding for youth programming and are focusing on cultural awareness in the community
- Exhibits at the St. Catharines Museum
  - Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet on until Aug. 28, 2011
  - Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue: Bridal Bliss in St. Catharines on until Oct. 16, 2011
  - Ornamenting the Ordinary: Crafts of South Asia launches on September 10 from 1-3pm
- Balls Falls is now selling 2012 calendars commemorating the war of 1812,
- L. Sadowski is teaching a Music History course for older adults in the fall, at the museum. Information is available in the newest Leisure Guide,
- Submissions are now being accepted for STRUTT 2011 more info at: <http://www.nac.org/strutt/submissions.html>,
- The Downtown Alliance for the Performing Arts (DAPA) will be hosting their season launch on Thursday September 8, 4:30 at the Courthouse Theatre.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday October 4, 2011 at 5:00pm – Committee Room 1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall

**Trillium Awards – Wednesday October 5, 2011 at 7:00pm**

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

Meeting ended at 6:08pm.