



Minutes
City of St. Catharines
Culture Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 4, 2011
5 – 6:30pm
Committee Room #1, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Present: Councillor Mark Elliott, Tracy Cotton (Chair), Angela Harris, Rick Rochon, Kathy Summers, Peter Vietgen, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson

Regrets: Melenie Bural, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Brian Narhi, Kathleen Powell, Lyn Royce, Laurie Sadowski, Debbie Slade, Steve Solski, Lilita Stripnieks, Wynne Nicholson

Absent: Kim Payne

Staff: Jason Cadieux, Rebecca Cann, Kelly Dell, Jennifer Tupling

1. Welcome and Introductions

T. Cotton welcomed everyone to the October meeting and introduced them to Jason Cadieux, the new Culture Coordinator working in the Cultural Services office.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the Agenda of October 4, 2011, with the addition of the *June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism in Ontario*, included under correspondence.

Made by: P. Vietgen **Seconded by:** M. Elliott **Carried.**

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes of the meeting held August 23, 2011.

Made by: K. Summers **Seconded by:** P. Vietgen **Carried.**

4. Business Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

Award for Artists and Arts Organizations: Creative Communities Prosperity Fund (email)

- T. Cotton reviewed the email and asked if the committee had any suggestions for a nomination. A. Wilson shared with the group the information she had reviewed on the awards website, encouraging the committee to do the same. R. Cann noted that the Niagara Artists centre was previously nominated but have yet to receive an award.

Action: the Culture Committee will consider possible nominations and submit ideas to Staff. The matter will be discussed more at the November 1, 2011 meeting.

Letter from Region of Niagara Culture Committee, (August 25, 2011) – T. Cotton reviewed the letter with the committee and inquired about any comments that they wished to share. They continued by discussing the Regional Culture Committee's activities and the cultural resources of other municipalities in the Region.

Action: R. Cann will arrange a meeting with the Region's Culture Committee. T. Cotton, M. Elliott, J. Wallace, & R. Rochon wish to participate.

June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism in Ontario (August 2011) - T. Cotton reviewed the email and asked if the committee had any suggestions for a nomination.

Action: the Culture Committee will consider possible nominations and submit ideas to Staff. The matter will be discussed further at the November 1, 2011 meeting.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards Subcommittee – W. Nicholson reported that the Arts Awards are tomorrow, all are invited and it should be a great night!

The group discussed moving forward on the motion passed at the August 23, 2011 meeting, regarding the Arts Awards hiatus for 2012. A letter will be drafted from T. Cotton to Rick Lane, thanking the Recreation and Community Services department for the opportunity to participate in the Trillium Awards. M. Elliott inquired about a manner to permanently recognize the recipients of such awards, possibly with a location in the new Performing Arts Centre. R. Cann explained that this was a topic that has been discussed recently because of the passing of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community. The matter is something that will be reviewed as the Arts Awards committee moves forward on their evaluation.

SCCIP Subcommittee – R. Rochon reported that the committee has received the SCCIP applications for reading and will be meeting at the end of the month to develop their recommendations. He reported that 20 applications were received this year, noting that the Artist in the Community Program has been suspended at this time. The total amount of requests are:

Request 2011: \$ 181,241.33
Request 2012: \$ 49,000.00
Request 2013: \$ 5,000.00

R. Rochon noted there are more Sustaining Program applications than in the past. He noted that this is a testament to the success of SCCIP, as when the program started many of these organizations were not eligible for this program. The support of SCCIP has assisted in their growth and resource base, and allowed them to access funding from other sources.

Planning Subcommittee – J. Wallace announced that she has accepted the role of Planning Subcommittee Chair. She reported that the Culture Plan consultant team has been selected and are currently completing the contract phase. The first meeting with the consultants is within the next week and they are already anticipating a meeting with the Culture Committee in the future. At the last Planning Committee meeting they reviewed the wiki and completed some brainstorming sessions. In the near future they will be inviting community members that they have identified as strong resources from

outside the Culture Committee to join the Planning Committee.

Staff shared a list of categories developed for the cultural assets list. R. Cann explained that there will be some assets that could be represented in a variety of categories, however, to avoid double-counting for now they will be represented in only one category. She noted this list is designed to relate to other information systems and databases.

Action: Culture Committee members will forward any additional feedback regarding the developed list to Cultural Services staff.

7. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) – P. Vietgen reported that PAAC's September meeting was canceled and they have not met since the last report.

User Group Committee – M. Elliott reported that the work of the committee has slowed down compared to earlier this year. The schematic design phase is now complete and they are moving into the final design phase. The Open House was a great success despite the rain, with estimated attendance of 300 people. Much of the feedback regarding the conceptual drawings has been positive, comments are still welcome. They are now moving towards a Class B estimate, to evaluate whether the design meets the budget. There will be a presentation to Council in November which will feature a digital model of the centre.

More info: <http://www.stcatharines.ca/en/governin/DowntownPerformingArtsCentre.asp>

Action: Staff will share the link to the renderings and presentation date with the committee, as they are available.

Arts Plan Oversight Committee – Nothing to report.

Heritage Committee – J. Tupling read a report submitted by B. Narhi along with his regrets: The Yates Street survey hasn't been done yet. They have just completed a list of significant individuals in our city (some present but mostly past), which can be used for street names, parks, city buildings etc. The Heritage Committee is also planning a large window display at the Central Library in February, featuring information on the Committee's work, as well as some of the surviving 19th century farmstead homes in the city, and a bit about the market square to help complete the theme. They envision some panels plus period books, pictures, and artifacts.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann presented the committee with information on Culture Days, a national arts participation event held on the September 30th weekend. She thought there might be a role for the Culture Committee to promote/encourage the St. Catharines' cultural community to hold events in 2012. This was the second year for the initiative and there has been no significant activity in St. Catharines. The committee was very interested in this event and is excited to discuss it more in the coming months.

R. Cann reported that two culture-related items were recently at Council: a staff report regarding the City's support of the 'First Canadians' sculpture and a report regarding the selection of the consulting firm for the Culture Plan. R. Cann is currently reviewing reports submitted by consultants regarding: the Centennial Park Totem Pole, the St. Catharines Cenotaph and the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph. She also reported that the second Professional Development event in the Culture in Niagara series was held last week. The Networking Opportunities Workshop with guest speaker Margaret Genovese was well attended by many throughout the region. R. Cann also reported that J. Tupling has been speaking with staff at Metro Vancouver who created the MAX website and they are willing to sell the website's programming for CultureInNiagara.com.

Action: The Committee will review the website and consider how it can support Culture Days in 2012.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Roundtable

- **Chorus Niagara** will be performing their first concert of the season, *Triumph of the Spirit* on Saturday November 5, 2011 at Calvary Church. More info: http://www.chorusniagara.ca/page/triumph_of_the_spirit
- **Carib Cultural Organization** will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a celebration at St. Barnabas Church on Saturday November 12, 2011. Anyone interested in tickets can contact Angie Harris.
- **Rodman Hall** has hired a new director/curator: Stuart Reid will begin January 2012. For more info: <http://www.brocku.ca/news/17516>
- **Balls Falls** will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Festival October 7 to 10, 2011. The event will feature 140 artists, 1812 activities, and much more! More info: <http://www.npca.ca/conservation-areas/balls-falls/>
- **Essential Collective Theatre** is currently presenting *Trout Stanley* at the Courthouse Theatre until October 16, 2011. More info: <http://www.ectheatre.ca/>

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

Motion: to adjourn. **Moved:** J. Wallace

Meeting ended at 6:14pm.