



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Culture Committee Meeting Minute/Notes/Agenda

Tuesday January 10, 2012 and 5pm
City Hall 3rd Floor, Committee Room #1

Present: Tracy Cotton, Councilor Mark Elliott, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Angela Harris, Lyn Royce, Brian Narhi, Wynne Nicholson, Rick Rochon, Laurie Sadowski, Kathy Summers, Peter Vietgen, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson

Regrets: Melenie Bural, Debbie Slade, Steve Solski, Kim Payne, Lilita Stripnieks

Staff: Jason Cadieux, Rebecca Cann, Kathleen Powell

1. Welcome and Introductions

T. Cotton welcomed the group and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda dated Jan 10, 2012

Moved: K. Payne

Seconded: P. Vietgen

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

L. Royce requested clarification of language regarding purchase of MAX website and spelling correction of "ethno-culture" on page 2.

Motion: To approve the minutes November 1, 2011 with amendments.

Moved: J. Wallace

Seconded: E. Fritshaw

Carried

4. Business Arising

Note: L. Royce— declared potential conflict of interest with regards to the Volunteer Service Awards & The Premier's Awards.

P. Vietgen and A. Wilson had considered nominating Ed Burtynski but after reviewing the nomination procedures they decided to postpone nomination until they had more time – perhaps next year. R. Rochon confirmed that he and K. Summers submitted a nomination of the Niagara Artists Centre. Finalists will be announced in the spring. R. Rochon clarified that, as per nomination guidelines, he was the nominator and not the committee.

R. Rochon asked R. Cann for an update on the Region's first Cultural Networking opportunity held at the Welland Wellness Centre in December. R. Cann reported that the meeting was well attended and despite lack of technical support she and S. Solski were able to update everyone on the progress of the Performing Arts Centre project and the Culture Plan development.

R. Rochon reported that he along with T. Cotton, R. Cann, J. Cadieux, J. Tupling, J. Wallace attended a meeting with representatives of the Regional Culture Committee to discuss communication issues and potential partnership. Although the meeting wasn't overly productive, it's the start of an ongoing dialogue with the Region.

5. Correspondence

R. Cann outlined nomination guidelines for the Province of Ontario's Volunteer Service Awards and asked the committee to forward any suggestions for nominees to J. Cadieux before January 25th. L. Royce noted that last year was the 25th anniversary of the awards and noted that youth (up to 24 years) need only have 2 years of service to be eligible for nominations.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards SubCommittee - Wynne Nicholson reported that the Arts Awards Subcommittee met to continue their review of other awards ceremonies. The subcommittee set a monthly meeting schedule, discussed what was missing from the present Trillium awards and brainstormed ideas for the future awards event. Some discussion followed on the present budget for the Awards. R. Cann clarified that the current Cultural Services budget has only allowed for the purchase of the Arts Awards themselves (approx. \$100 per award) as the rest of the event is under a Parks budget line.

SCCIP Subcommittee - R. Rochon reported that SCCIP recommendations went to Council on November 14th 2011 and R. Cann noted that cheques were sent out to successful applicants. R. Rochon acknowledged the letter of thanks from Carousel Players.

Culture Plan 2020 Cross Sectoral Steering Committee - J. Wallace reported that although everyone who was invited to be a part of the committee accepted, not everyone was able to attend the kick-off meeting held Nov 29th. Attendance at town hall meetings and focus group meetings was 78 in total. Jason & Jen are currently working on a number of engagement strategies including Culture Stamp - the St. Catharines Postcard Project, Roving Camera (in partnership with Suitcase In Point) and a writing contest is in the works. Terrence Cox, Poet in Residence for the Culture Plan will be the judge for the contest. R. Cann added that a preliminary summary of findings is currently being drafted by the consultants and will be sent along to the Steering Committee after it is reviewed by the Culture Plan Management team. An internal analysis is currently underway and should be completed by late February. The cultural asset mapping process is now complete and the consultants will begin working with this data. SCCIP financial and statistical data is being collated and will be passed on to the consultants within the next two weeks. Both an Artist Survey and a Community Survey are being prepared by the consultants and will be disseminated sometime over the next month.

Public Art Advisory Committee - Peter Vietgen reported that the committee held an informal get together in December to discuss public art procurement issues. Marcie Bronson drafted a discussion paper which examines two key issues: "How to respond to community proposals within staff and budgetary resources, while maintaining integrity of the public art collection and ensuring fair and equal access to opportunities and funding to local artists and community groups?" and secondly "how are works acquired through purchase by the City to be selected? (How to develop a cohesive collection of works of art of high aesthetic standard in accordance with the City's art collection mandate?)". Peter promised more details as things develop.

User Group Committee - M. Elliott reported that the final Design for the Performing Arts Centre as reviewed and recommended by the User Group Committee was passed by Council on Nov 21st. The UGC contributed to the cuts and adjustments of the original program to create a more efficient space while maintaining strong functionality. Council approved the overall budget to 60.7 million in response to the project's needs. Documents are finalized for first phase of construction which should start late winter or early spring with second phase of construction starting in the summer. M. Elliot noted that he felt fortunate to be a part such incredible review process – architects of Diamond Schmidt were very receptive to the committee's concerns and consistently came back to the table with clear design alternatives. R. Cann added that the Technical committee is still at work..

Heritage Committee - B. Narhi had nothing new to report.

Report from Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reported that the success of the Region's Culture Capital of Canada Grants means the City and Culture in Niagara Partners will receive an additional \$24,000 for the website project. This requires the project budget be reexamined to satisfy Federal funding guidelines. Banners boasting the Cultural Capital designation are on the way. These banners will replace the current banners in front of City Hall only, a move approved by the Downtown Association..

J. Cadieux sent out a doodle poll to SCCIP Sustaining clients to determine the potential of an earlier program deadline. As no consensus was reached, staff decided to maintain the current deadline for this year and focus on a review of the program itself.

Culture Plan Renewal process: J. Cadieux and J. Tupling are interacting online everyday via the City's new Twitter feed and Facebook Page. More than just a short term engagement strategy for the Culture Policy Renewal process, the Culture Services department sees this embarkation into Social media as a way to engage St. Catharines citizens in culture over the long term. Culture Ink, a revised and digital version of Culture News is currently in the works and Committee members can expect the first full issue by summer. Truncated e-news blast dubbed "INK-blots" will fill in time between main newsletters. Culture Committee members interested in contributing to the newsletter should contact J. Cadieux. R. Cann stressed that the next three months are about building a momentum of community engagement with the City's Culture Policy Renewal process.

Commissioned artist Naoko Matsubara recently visited the new Kiwanis Aquatics Centre to help determine a new site for her artwork. This is the City's first commissioned artwork and issues have arisen with regard to its placement. A new site for "Jeux d'eau" has been identified. Copy has been submitted to both the City Guide 2012 & Leisure Guide (Spring/Summer) 2012.

The City's Tourism Services staff have completed a draft of a Festivals and Events Policy, which may have an effect on SCCIP. Deadlines for the policy's development were tight and as a result K. Payne has not consulted with the cultural community. Issues to be explored include how to reconcile this new policy with SCCIP. M. Elliott added that one central cultural fund would make it easier to account for monies spent on culture. There is a concern that a new policy may mean

that some SCCIP applicants will have to go in two directions when approaching the City for funding, resulting in twice the work and potential issues of 'double dipping' into City coffers. The Culture Committee discussed some options for the most clear and transparent way to manage this funding process and hope to have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft policy in the near future.

R. Cann reported that the Mayor's Committee on Community and Race Relations has not been renewed due to a shortage of interested participants. The committee discussed the importance of diversity and inclusivity - does having a committee on this issue 'ghettoize' the dialogue? Should all Committees be part of this discussion? R. Cann noted diversity and inclusivity issues are being discussed as part of the Cultural Policy Renewal process. It was agreed that there's no simple solution to addressing this complex issue. The Committee will continue to look for ways to dialogue on the subject when approaching their work in other capacities.

Report from Museum – K. Powell noted that although the Canal is closed the Museum is still open. This year the Museum offered a variety of Children's programming during the Christmas Holidays and kids who participated enjoyed themselves. K. Powell encouraged the Committee to spread the word about the Museum's children's programming during Family Day and distributed posters for the Cabin Fever & Child's Play exhibits currently on display.

7. Other Business

J. Cadieux reviewed the options for the Culture Committee's meeting schedule for 2012 and reminded the committee to continue spreading the word about the Culture Stamp Postcard Project. Staff have more postcards if anyone needs them.

8. Roundtable

- L. Sadowski is in the early stages of planning *Niagara First Veg Fest* – a new food festival with a health and community focus, more information to come.
- E. Fritshaw – downtown delish is on now, visit downtowndelish.ca for details.
- Harris – Chorus Niagara – first concert March 3rd. A commissioned piece entitled [No Mortal Business](#). Don't miss it. Angela is looking for Sponsors for the Sing-a-Thon at Seaway Mall - Feb 11. [Primavera presents Bach's Coffee Cantata](#) Jan 22 at 3pm featuring St. Catharines Chamber Music Society.
- Brian Narhi – Informed the committee of the passing of Paul Lewis author of [The History & Homes of Yates Street](#). B. Narhi noted that one the older homes on Yates St. is currently under renovation. Committee members interested in catching a peak at the original exterior of an early 1800's home might consider taking a stroll through the heritage district.
- Wilson – reminder of Balls Falls War of 1812 exhibit [Pathways to Peace](#) - books on sale now.

Motion: To terminate meeting.

Moved: E. Fritshaw **Seconded:** A. Wilson

Carried

9. Next Meeting:

Tuesday Feb 7th, 2012– 5:00pm to 6:30pm. Committee Room 1 – 3rd Floor – City Hall