



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Culture Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2012

City Hall - Committee Room #1, 3rd Floor

Present: Melenie Bural, Tracy Cotton, Councilor Mark Elliott, Angela Harris, Wynne Nicholson, Sue Morrison, Kim Payne, Kathleen Powell, Rick Rochon, Laurie Sadowski, Lilita Stripnieks, Kathy Summers, Peter Vietgen

Staff: Jason Cadieux, Rebecca Cann

Regrets: Elizabeth Fritshaw, Brian Narhi, Debbie Slade, Steve Solski, Jennifer Wallace, Andrea Wilson

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy welcomed the committee and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: P. Vietgen

Seconded: M. Elliott

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes for the meeting held March 6, 2012

Motion: R. Rochon

Seconded: M. Bural

Carried

4. Business Arising

R. Cann noted that Cultural Capitals of Canada banners have been installed along various streets in downtown St. Catharines. To accommodate this meeting's full schedule a review of Culture Committee's work-plan has been pushed to next month's agenda.

5. Correspondence

Jason confirmed that Angela Harris & Elizabeth Fritshaw were both nominated for the City of St. Catharines' 24th Annual volunteer recognition Awards. The award ceremonies will take place on April 17th at the Holiday Inn – Parkway Convention Centre.

6. Review of SCCIP Programming Streams

R. Rochon introduced the Culture Builds Community program (CBC) by providing a short summary of the challenges faced by artists, staff and community partners who participated in the Artist in the Community Program. After conducting a focus group and some one-on-one interviews with past participants of this program, R. Cann and J.

Cadieaux drafted a new program that offers a broader access to funding opportunities for meaningful community art and other cultural experiences. R. Rochon then handed the floor over to R. Cann who led a review of the CBC Program. R. Cann brought special attention to the inclusion of definitions and additional eligibility requirements of the new program. R. Cann added that the final draft will include a sentence (approved by the City's Legal department) that articulates the City's position on funding religious activities. R. Cann reviewed evaluation criteria, noting emphasis on community participation and then opened the floor for questions.

R. Cann asked the committee to consider potential challenges of CBC applications for events like the Folk Arts Festival open houses and/or sporting events that propose to incorporate a cultural element. Could these events qualify? What are the issues? K. Payne noted that the Folk Arts Council already receives funding from the City for the Folk Arts Festival - additional funding through the CBC is double dipping. Some discussion of this and other challenges followed. S. Morrison suggested flexibility is the key with any new program. The committee agreed that CBC adds another layer to SCCIP which in conjunction with the established streams and the proposed Festivals & Events policy makes for a comprehensive investment program.

Motion: To accept the proposed Culture Builds Community Program as presented by the subcommittee and recommend the new program be presented to Council for inclusion on the upcoming SCCIP 2012.

Made By: M. Elliot

Second: K. Summers

Carried

R. Cann distributed recent draft of the Festivals & Events Policy and noted that highlighted text requires further review and discussion. R. Cann asked the committee to review the policy and be prepared to discuss in detail at May 1st meeting. Questions or concerns via email regarding the policy are welcome. R. Rochon explained that the SCCIP committee had reviewed a previous draft at their last meeting. At that time there were issues with funding thresholds and more community consultation was needed. K. Payne gave a brief background on the development of the program and thanked R. Cann and the SCCIP Committee for all their input over the last two months. K. Payne stressed the importance of Marketing from an Economic and Tourism perspective and noted that in-kind services are still an issue to be worked out.

Action: Committee to review the updated draft of the Festivals and Events Policy for next meeting

Action: K. Payne & R. Cann to coordinate community consultation session to discuss new policy with Festival stakeholders.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Arts Awards Committee – W. Nicholson read the committee a draft of the Arts Awards revised mandate. After reviewing the Culture Committee's yearly workload the committee has chosen June for the new Awards event. J. Cadieux is checking availability of the committee's preferred venues and E. Fritshaw is preparing a draft

budget for the event for the committee to review at its next meeting. The committee is considering a total of 6 Awards for the new program. In addition to the established arts awards, new awards would acknowledge arts in education and arts volunteerism. R. Cann noted that her report on the Arts Awards review process will go to Council on April 16th.

SCCIP Committee - R. Rochon reported that in addition to reviewing the CBC program and the updated Festivals & Events policy, the committee discussed the possibility of a pre-grant development phase for community art projects. Bryan White's request to re-imagine his 2010 Artists in the Community program grant presents an ideal opportunity to test this concept. Rebecca has conferred with K. Reichheld on using Brian as a test-case and will draft a letter to Brian outlining requirements. R. Cann will review this requirement list with the Committee before sending to Brian. After reviewing updated financial documents submitted by Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects (LTP), the committee recommends that LTP retain 2010 SCCIP Funding. However there are still concerns about the company. R. Cann will draft a letter notifying LTP of the Committee's recommendation and outlining their concerns.

CP 2020 Cross-sectoral Committee – (R. Cann reported on J. Wallace's behalf) Consultants have delivered their State of Culture report – a significant document containing a SCCIP economic impact analysis, Performing Arts Centre analysis, summary of community perceptions, cultural mapping and more. The Cross-Sectoral Committee will be meeting to review elements of this document on April 6th. Due to multiple scheduling conflicts the Internal Advisory Team meeting has been postponed. R. Cann explained the world cafe concept – a series of informal meetings with local stakeholders at downtown cafes and restaurants to discuss different aspects of the culture plan renewal process. Look for invites to the first World Café in the coming weeks. Community engagement keeps moving - look for poems by CP Poet Terrance Cox and the next Roving camera videos to be posted soon.

8. Reports

Public Art Advisory Committee – P. Vietgen reported that the PAAC nominated Steve Remus for the upcoming St. Catharines volunteer awards. The public art procurement process continues to move forward under the guidance of Marcie Bronson. The Red Juried Art Exhibit received a record number of submissions – 117 total. The selection committee chose 17 works for the upcoming exhibit which opens April 26 at City Hall. Artist Naoko Matsubara has completed her work "Jeux d'eau" (Games of Water). A framer for the piece has been selected and the City's first commissioned artwork will soon be installed at the new Kiwanis Aquatics Centre. City Hall sculpture program - call for pre-existing sculpture has gone out. Next PAAC meeting April 19th.

Report from the Performing Arts Centre – (R. Cann reported on S. Solski's behalf) Council awards below grade construction package to Peter's Excavating from Stevensville, Niagara at last night's Council Meeting. Below grade work is set to begin in the next few weeks and should be completed in July. Below grade work includes

excavating the site of all contaminated and clean dirt, shoring the site on three sides (Laneway, St Paul and Carlisle) and hoarding of the site to prepare for the above grade construction. The architects are working on 90% drawings and the project is still tracking on budget after the review of the 60% drawings. The main building and above grade construction is to be tendered in July with the main building construction to begin in August. Building is still tracking to be opened the fall of 2014. S. Solski invited the committee to like PAC's Facebook page; <http://www.facebook.com/StCatharinesPerformingArtsCentre> and to follow PAC on Twitter @STCATHPAC - M. Elliott added there will be a ground breaking ceremony next Tuesday April 10th.

User Group Committee – M. Elliott reported that the UGC hasn't met recently however the Technical Committee recently met to review construction drawings. S. Solski is working with smaller individual groups tracking various aspects of design and construction. Tracy asked whether other communities have involved community groups as much. M. Elliott confirmed that the process is unique – the Architects were impressed with the UGC's level of commitment and insight.

Cultural Services – R. Cann reported that the Cultural Services newsletter, Culture Ink, is almost complete and will be sent out by mid-April. A Call for Submissions is being developed for artwork to be installed in the site adjacent to the totem pole in Centennial Park. Culture in Niagara professional development workshops continue. A grant to restore the Port Dalhousie cenotaph received Council support at their last meeting. A report on murals to go to before Council on April 16th.

Report from Museum – K. Powell reported that April is looking to be a very busy month. Museum staff has just removed both the Child's Play and Cabin Fever exhibits and are preparing to install new exhibits before month's end. Upcoming exhibits; Fakes and Forgeries exhibit, General Motors foundry exhibit and an exhibit celebrating 85th anniversary of the YWCA. The canal is now open! This summer the museum will collaborate with the Niagara Artists Centre on an 1812 themed exhibit as part of the Cultural Capitals of Canada celebration. Art of Fact exhibit will feature 5-contemporary pieces of art tied to the War of 1812: this exhibit will tour the region. The Museum and Canal Centre is open Easter weekend. K. Powell invited the committee to like the Museum's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/stcatharinesmuseum>

9. Other Business

None

10. Round Table

- L. Sadowski invited the committee to attend Niagara Veg Fest on June 2nd from 10am to 5pm. Visit www.niagaravegfest.com for details.
- S. Morrison reported that the Ontario budget came down. OAC and OTF will maintain current levels of funding, however smaller granting programs will be consolidated. Grants Ontario continues to develop as a portal.

- Angela Harris plugged upcoming Primavera concert April 15th visit www.primaveraconcerts.ca for details. Chorus Niagara raised over \$46,000 thanks to all who supported Angela in her fundraising efforts.
- M. Bural reminded the committee that Folk Arts Festival is coming up May 12 to 27th this year the days in park will take place first with open houses to follow. Visit <http://folk-arts.ca/Festival2009/>
- L. Stripnieks plugged upcoming Brock Faculty Research talks. The War of 1812 lecture series continues. Recently the library purchased new accessibility software. Visit <http://www.stcatharines.library.on.ca/>

11. Next Meeting

Tuesday May 1, 2012 City Hall, committee room #1 3rd Floor