

# Canada 150 Anniversary Task Force

## Minutes

**Thursday, September 01, 2016**

**Kiwanis Aquatics Centre at 7:00 pm**

### **Members:**

Grace Cirocco; Brandon Houtby; Karen Sabzali; Sal Sorrento (Councillor Ward 3); Mary Stanko; Sandie Timco; Maria Luisa Tiro; Rick Vanderkuip; David Waddington; Edwin Wand; David Warren.

### **Staff Liaison:**

Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator  
Kathleen Powell, Historical Services Supervisor  
Liz Fritshaw, Community Relations Coordinator

**Attendance:** Karen Sabzali; Mary Stanko; Sandie Timco; Rick Vanderkuip; David Waddington; Edwin Wand; David Warren, Elizabeth Fritshaw, Carla Mackie.

**Regrets:** Grace Cirocco; Brandon Houtby; Sal Sorrento (Councillor Ward 3); Maria Luisa Tiro; Kathleen Powell

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1. **Call meeting to order (Chair): 7pm**
  2. **Motion to approve the agenda (5 minutes)**  
To approve the agenda for the meeting of September 1, 2016. Approved K. Sabzali
  3. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting (5 minutes)**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of August 4, 2016, as amended – see New Business. Approved S. Timco.
  4. **Delegations**
  5. **Business**
    - 5.1 a. Cultural Sustainability Committee Meeting

C. Mackie provided a summary of the CSC Meeting from 10 August 2016.

Canada 150 Parade: CSC commented that staging a C150 parade would be very extensive, complex and not qualify for government funding. They suggested that a C150 float could be incorporated into one of the other City parades.

Car Free Sunday: CSC were very concerned about traffic flow, road closures, the number of times (17) the roads would be closed and the expensive associated with this. They also suggested that not closing the roads and hosting the event along the trail may be a better option.

History Booklet: CSC questioned the need for another publication on the History of St. Catharines and suggested that interactive initiatives could be focused on.

Get-to-know-me Event: There was no comment on this project other than the event should have a stronger C150 focus.

Greening: CSC gave positive feedback regarding flags and additional plantings and suggested that the C150TF connect with the City's Greening Committee.

Gala Event: It was noted that the Gala is simply an idea and not currently an event.

## 5.2 Projects Reports

### a. Parade Subcommittee:

The Subcommittee will not be proceeding with a C150 parade or float.

### b. Gala Subcommittee

A Gala event is currently on hold.

### c. Get-to-know-me Subcommittee

The Subcommittee has met informally with members of the Facer Street Festival Group and are preparing more C150 focused events and budgets for presentation to the Facer Street Group at the end of September.

### d. Booklet/Magazine Subcommittee

M. Stanko presented some books and ideas that could be included in a children's activity booklet (which could include colouring pages, games, puzzles, flags/crests). The TF agreed that moving forward with children's activity booklet instead of a history booklet would be

received well. It was suggested that a Co-op Student from Brock could help with its creation.

e. Car Free Sunday Subcommittee

See attached report.

f. Greening of the Garden City Subcommittee

K. Sabzali and R. Vanderkuip gave a presentation to the City's Green Committee at their August meeting. A summary of the C150 ideas were presented including: planting 150 Trees, greening initiatives along the canal and the brochure encouraging residents to plant the 150<sup>th</sup> tulip, red and white flower beds and native plants. The information was well received, the committee will discuss how they can help or join with the Task Force to enhance or work together on these projects. The committee did mention that the City has already orders 1500 of the tulips for City beds which they feel is adequate coverage and the max allotted to order. The committee noted that sustainable initiatives would include tall landscape (trees) as both shrub and beds have a high cost to maintain and City budgets are already tight.

g. PR Subcommittee

M. Stanko provided the TF with information on Canadian heroes and other St. Catharines history. The TF agreed that these facts could be used as tweets. It was also suggested that the subcommittee reach out to established organizations to find out what events they have planned and how the TF can participate or help promote their events. S. Timco and D. Waddington will hand out C150 postcards at the Greek Festival on Labour Day weekend.

**4. New Business**

1. Ontario 150 Grant: K. Powell submitted the O150 Grant Application on behalf of the St. Catharines Museum. Projects included C150 themed exhibits, enhanced Canada Day celebrations, a market discovery table, Canada One-Five-Oh House, Doors Open, Guided Spirit Walks and promotional material to encourage local citizens to green their part of the Garden City.

2. M. Stanko provided ideas for an activity booklet and other historical information, please see above.

3. E. Wand will contact St. Catharines Collegiate to see how the school is planning to celebrate C150 or if they would like to participate in C150 events.

5. **Location and Date of next meeting**

Kiwanis Aquatics Centre – Thursday, October 6, 2016

6. **Motion to Adjourn:** 8:05 pm

# **Report**

**Tuesday, August 16, 2016**

## **C150 Task Force: Car Free Sundays Subcommittee**

### **Members:**

Rick Vanderkuip; Brandon Houtby; Karen Sabzali

### **Staff Liaison:**

Elizabeth Fritshaw

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### **Update of Business:**

#### **Tuesday August 16 – St. Lawrence Seaway Offices**

R. Vanderkuip; K. Sabzali and E. Fritshaw met with Cassie Kelley and David LeBlanc from the SLSMC to discuss plan for Car Free Sundays.

The Seaway is agreeable to use the Parkway for the event with the condition that they can still access the road for their emergency vehicles if / as required. They also were ok if the Carleton St crossing were to be closed to vehicle traffic for the duration of the event.

#### **Tuesday August 16 – Old Courthouse (10:30am)**

A stakeholders meeting was held with the subcommittee members and a number of key stakeholders to review the project. Several City departments were represented including the Museum (Kathleen Powell), Parks, Recreation (Jeffery Silcox-Childs), Transportation (Brian Appleby), Economic Development and Tourism (Brian York), the Mayor's Office (Julie Rorison), Niagara Regional Police (James Taylor), Fire Services (Frank Donati).

The Task Force SubCommittee is looking for the "political will" from all stakeholders and feedback on potential obstacles to the project. General concerns that were brought up:

- Parkway is an Emergency Detour Route for the QEW
- displacement of avg 6000 vehicles that travel the road each day
- emergency vehicle access logistics
- Carleton St bridge must remain open for emergency vehicles and services
- Liability insurance requirements
- citizen complaints (always lots even with Rankin Run – 1x for 3 hours)
- City doesn't have enough road closure equipment (using trailers not saw horses)

- NRP sworn constables would be required / doubtful can staff 17 occurrences
- Concerns over distance of closure (7km) and # of occurrences (17)
- Logistics of re routing traffic coming up to the Parkway and detouring them
- concern about home-grown acts of violence in this kind of event

**Wednesday August 24, 5:30pm**

Rick, Karen, Elizabeth Fritshaw met to debrief after the stakeholder meeting. Rick felt that there was little appetite for the event from the stakeholders conversation. Karen was more optimistic that the event has opportunity to go forward if we return to the stakeholders and ask them what would they support / how can this happen? It is happening in other communities – what can we do to make it happen here? Some further thoughts and organizing of the constraints brought up and ways forward to then return to stakeholders for a new conversation.

Submitted by Rick Vanderkuip