



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Culture Committee
Dec 4 2012 5pm to 6:30pm
City Hall, 3rd Floor - Committee Room #1

Present: Tracy Cotton, Jennifer Wallace, Melenie Neamtz, Angela Harris, Peter Vietgen, Sue Morrison, Mark Elliott, Andrea Wilson, Wynne Nicholson

Regrets: Rick Rochon, Steve Solski, Deb Slade, Kim Payne, Lilita Stripnieks, Brian Narhi, Kathy Summers, Laurie Sadowski

Staff: Rebecca Cann, Jason Cadieux, Kathy Powell

1. Welcome and Introductions

T. Cotton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. R. Cann noted that quorum wouldn't be established until the arrival of an additional voting member.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda

Made by P. Vietgen

seconded by A. Harris

Carried*

3. Review of Minutes from Oct 25, 2012

Motion to approve minutes from Oct 25, 2012

Made by J. Wallace

Seconded by W. Nicholson

Carried*

4. Business Arising

None

*M. Elliot arrived at approximately 5:18pm. All motions were reviewed and carried with the establishment of quorum.

5. Correspondence

The Committee reviewed Carousel Players (CP) letter regarding the 2012 SCCIP recommendations and discussed their request to resubmit a multi-year application. M. Neamtz asked for clarification on current SCCIP rules regarding the resubmission of applications. R. Cann noted there is no policy on resubmissions, only late applications. R. Cann noted that the core issues identified by CP are 1) successful multi-year applicants have an edge over applicants applying on a year-to-year basis. 2) CP is playing a leadership role in the development of the cultural sector, filling the gap left by the demise of the Arts Council and yet their funding was cut by 5%.

Some discussion took place on whether the Committee should support CP's request and different opinions were voiced. S. Morrison noted that allowing CP to resubmit would set a precedent. P. Vietgen noted that this 'loophole' has existed for years and is only being brought to light because of the reductions to organizations in the Sustaining Program.



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The committee agreed that ensuring the equitable management of limited SCCIP funding is a key concern however they do not support Carousel's request to reapply. It was further noted that Carousel's concerns are reasonable and should be discussed further by the SCCIP subcommittee with regard to how multi-year funding recommendations are made in the future.

Motion: that the Culture Committee not support Carousel Players' request to reapply with a multi-year application to the 2012 SCCIP program. The Committee acknowledges Carousel Players' concerns with regard to multi-year funding and will undertake a review of the SCCIP program before next years' deadline.

Made by M. Elliott

Seconded by: J. Wallace

Carried

6. Subcommittee Reports

SCCIP Committee – In R. Rochon's absence R. Cann noted that the Niagara Artists Centre (NAC) expressed disappointment to staff with the committee's decision not to recommend funding for STRUT 2012 and at one point were considering appealing the decision. R. Cann and J. Cadieux met with S. Remus to discuss the committee's recommendation. S. Remus expressed a number of concerns, including the significant investment in local artists by STRUT, and the fact the event is a local success story, and is it not Important for SCCIP to invest in the tried and true and not just new initiatives? R. Cann noted that SCCIP eligibility requirements clearly state that projects will not be funded retroactively, however, this often means "after the deadline" with some applicants. Does it for SCCIP? No doubt the late notice of denial added to NAC's challenge. In future staff will be clear about eligible projects/start dates for CDP and CBC. M. Elliott noted that STRUT was funded through a Fee for Service agreement with the Economic Development and Customer Services department and included an emphasis on marketing initiatives and deliverables. Some discussion took place on the need for clarity between SCCIP and Economic Development Department's new Festivals & Events Policy - should projects be eligible for funding through both programs? S. Morrison made two suggestions for consideration regarding Terms and Conditions for SCCIP 1) add a disclaimer that if applicants choose to go ahead with proposed projects before funding is recommended they do so at their own risk and 2) add a note clarifying that any expenses incurred before funding is approved are not eligible for funding.

Action: R. Cann will ask S. Remus to submit his concerns so they can be shared with the committee. The SCCIP Committee will review the issue of when a project is retroactive.

Arts Awards Committee – W. Nicholson reported that Arts Awards developments are on hold until R. Cann's report goes to Council in January of 2013. Currently J. Tupling is working on a draft of the new award nomination forms. The subcommittee has drafted a list of potential sponsors to be followed up with once City Council gives the green light to move forward with the new Arts Awards program.

Culture Plan 2020 Cross-Sectoral Steering Committee – J. Wallace reported that the Cross-Sectoral Committee met to review a first draft of the culture plan. Staff and consultants from Lord Cultural



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Resources conducted several meetings with Internal Advisory Committee members and other City staff. Meetings with City Departments were broken down into smaller working groups to facilitate more focused and meaningful discussions. R. Cann has summarized feedback from Cross-sectoral and Internal Advisory groups and sent these along to the consultants who will be revising the Priorities and Initiatives accordingly. Revised priorities will be presented at the Dec 6th public information sessions. J. Wallace encouraged the committee to attend.

Staff has received the best practices report from the Consultants and will be reviewing it over the next week. R. Cann noted that as the initiatives under each priority emerge it's obvious there's a lot of work to be done AND it's not just one department's responsibility to achieve the plan. R. Cann confirmed that the Culture Committee would indeed be reviewing the next draft of the plan.

7. Reports:

Cultural Services Office – R. Cann reported that core restorations on the St. Catharines Cenotaph were completed in time for Remembrance Day services. There are still a few small bits of restorative work to be completed which will most likely be addressed in the spring. SCCIP has kept staff very busy however recommendations were unanimously approved by Council on November 26, 2012. Staff continues to promote the cNiagara website via “post it” parties across the region. The site now has just over 500 event postings. The cNiagara marketing campaign has begun - look for ads in your local paper. Lastly, staff will be on hand at the Cultural Capitals closing ceremonies to promote the new site on December 12 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre.

The City has undergone further restructuring and the St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre is now part of Recreation and Community Services. The City has initiated a Citizens First campaign, complete with service surveys.

Action: J. Cadieux to share the link with Culture Committee. Please take a moment to fill out this survey!

Public Art Advisory Committee – P. Vietgen reported that Public Art Advisory Committee met at Centennial Gardens to view the Emblemata exhibit and discuss other public art possibilities in the park. The 2013 annual juried art exhibit is announced - Beyond the Wall: Unpacking the Layers of St. Catharines' Walls. Deadline for submissions is March 8, 2013. PAC member S. Remus currently sits on the New Hospital Arts Committee. This committee is currently drafting a procurement policy for art selection. The committee has reviewed the works previously in their collection and will be auctioning these off to raise funds for future acquisitions. He noted there is a work depicting the Lakeside Park Carousel that the Public Art Advisory Committee may wish to acquire for the St. Catharines Civic Art Collection. P. Vietgen also noted that the Region of Niagara will be holding public information sessions on proposed Culture Plan implementation amendments to the Region's Land Use Growth Plan.

Action: J. Cadieux to recirculate notice for the public information sessions.

Performing Arts Centre – M. Elliott reported that the schematics for the redesign of the PAC were approved by Council on Nov 26, 2012. Further discussion needs to happen regarding the façade of the building. Using “value engineering” the architects have removed quite a bit of glass and



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cantilevered space from the original design, and the oddly shaped roof on the concert hall has been adjusted and simplified. Council approved the recommendation to terminate Prism as project managers for the future construction of the PAC and to hire Diamond Schmitt Architectural firm to take on this aspect of the project. M. Elliott reaffirmed that the User Group Committee were the stars of this project as they brought a new level of insight to the design process for both Front and Back of House design.

Heritage Committee – B. Narhi. In B. Narhi's absence J. Cadieux read an email from B. Narhi confirming the nomination of Esther Summers for the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement in Volunteerism Award. The Heritage Committee is planning to reschedule a rained out plaque unveiling ceremony at the Hostetter cemetery. The 1812 Steering Committee has several projects lined up for 2013 including the printing of a commemorative book; the issuing of genealogical certificates of recognition to the descendants of 1812 veterans; participation in the Laura Secord-Beaver Dams celebrations; and a special event at Port Dalhousie on Canada Day weekend.

St. Catharines Museum – K. Powell reported that the Famous Sea Monsters exhibit is now open and runs until March 24, 2013. Details on special holiday programming can be found on the City's website. The museum has been offered the opportunity to buy the first car built in St. Catharines - currently on display in the lobby!

8. Other business:

Committee discussed pushing meeting time for the Culture Committee Meetings to 5:30pm in 2013. T. Cotton suggested the committee be polled to determine the committee's preference.

Action: J. Cadieux to send an inquiry to the Committee to determine if a change in meeting time is necessary.

9. Round table

A. Harris - Don't forget that [Chorus Niagara](#) performs Messiah this weekend! The Soloists are fantastic! Also with the upcoming 2-year anniversary of Chorus Niagara flash mob at Seaway Mall, the organization is trying to hit 40 million views – [check out the video here!](#)

S. Morrison - Coalition of St. Catharines Violence against women and Rodman Hall Art Centre are bringing an international poster exhibit on Feb 28th up for one week only. Be sure to visit this powerful exhibit.

M. Elliott - Thursday night [Deck the Hall](#) at Rodman Hall! Proceeds go to art education in the community.

R. Cann - Driftwood theatre looking for support for their Aviva Community Fund *MegaHurtin'* Campaign. J. Cadieux will send out link so committee can vote.

10. Next Meeting:

January 8, 2013 5:00pm to 6:30pm Committee Room 1 – 3rd Floor – City Hall

Meeting terminated @ 6:20pm