

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 24, 2005

PRESENT:

Councillor Streach
Councillor Uteck
Gary Vermeir (12:50)
Mike LaLeune
Shahin Sayadi
Paul Greenhalgh
Gordon Morgan
Allison Outhit

REGRETS:

Margie Clow-Bohan
Betty Thomas
Andrew Inch

ABSENT:

Elias Metlej
Jeffery Spalding
Dave Roberts

**STAFF
& OTHERS:**

Andrew Whittemore, Executive Assistant CAO
Holly Richardson, Programmer, Recreation & Tourism
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:12 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Mike LaLeune, seconded by Ms. Allison Outhit that the minutes of May 27, 2005 and June 10, 2005 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1.1 Website Design

Mr. Greenhalgh advised that the draft designs will soon be ready for presentation to the Subcommittee.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Discussion Paper

Dealt with in item 5.2.

5.2 Goal Development

- A document entitled "Multicultural Booth Comments from the Public" was circulated to the Committee for information.

Mr. Andrew Whittemore advised the Committee that Staff is seeking feedback as to what the Committee considers cultural issues and opportunities.

Upon review of the comments from the public a discussion ensued and the following issues and/or comments were identified:

- Linking the Urban Plan to the Cultural Plan should be a priority.
- Municipal infrastructures, including capital and intellectual improvements are

required.

- The Cultural Plan is an opportunity to establish stabilized funding.
- The urban centre should be the major cultural centre, however the suburban and rural areas need to be involved in order to generate participation in the urban core.
- Culture is based on patronage and HRM should establish leadership at the community level.
- Committee members agreed that government funding programs are poorly implemented and managed. The current process does not allow small or new groups to improve or grow.

Mr. Paul Greenhalgh commented that there is a focus on community collaboration. If the citizens do not know what is possible they cannot know what they want. It is important that local communities have the basic cultural amenities such as education and recreational facilities. The public needs to understand that HRM cannot provide every community with major amenities. He further commented that a project-based strategy is a viable option as a project-based approach is easier to manage and raise funding. Each of the issues that have been defined as important can be implemented and funding allocated.

Mr. Shahin Sayadi commented that there needs to be a plan as to how funding is distributed, the plan must be all inclusive. Some projects receive substantial funding, while others receive none or very little. How do you change the process so that all groups and individuals can compete for scarce funding on the same level? The real issues are not being dealt with.

Councillor Uteck suggested that the Committee identify what level of government is funding what types of programs. Mr. LaLeune commented that the Committee needs to know what the objectives of the Cultural Plan are and a detailed policy needs to be developed before HRM can commit additional funding to the grants program.

The Committee recessed at 12:00 and reconvened at 12:20.

Councillor Streach commented that multi-user facilities are more successful and that the Committee needs to move ahead on issues of merit.

Mr. Greenhalgh commented that if the current Cultural Facilities are not being used then funding should be allocated accordingly. He further advised the Committee that he is a member of the Economic Strategy Advisory Committee. Although, he is not in favour of vision statements, he does agree that the Committee needs to make a statement as to what the Cultural Advisory Committee and Cultural Plan is. He suggested that the statement identify what is unique to HRM. He further suggested that the Cultural Advisory Committee and Economic Strategy Committee have one common statement, he suggested that the Committees work together as economics and culture is an important component of each Committee.

Councillor Uteck commented that HRM needs to be confident in itself. As a result a brief discussion ensued and the Committee members agreed that instilling confidence in HRM is required before selling HRM to others. Encouraging confidence in the ability of HRM to achieve excellence is required. The Citizens need to be involved in identifying a Cultural identity and that the statement and identity needs to be progressive, simple and positive.

Mr. Sayadi commented that success cannot be measured based on attendance records. Basing success on attendance records may suggest that one must do what is already accepted. For example new and emerging artist may have a small audience. They require the opportunity to grow and expand.

Mr. Greenhalgh commented that attendance records are based on several factors such as cost. Further, that this would encourage seeking a diverse audience.

Staff presented the following Strategic Directions to the Committee:

1. Coordinated Service Delivery and Partnerships
2. Access & Equity through Community Development and Awareness
3. Promotion & Celebration of Cultural Identity
4. Life-Long Learning & Creative Development
5. Strategic Investment & Promotion to Support Social & Economic Vitality
6. Cultural Diversity to Reinforce & Build Distinct Neighbourhoods & Communities

As a result of the discussion, the Committee amended the strategic directions as presented by Staff:

1. It is recommended that Staff revise Strategic Direction number one to be more specific. The following was suggested " Focussed service delivery and partnerships among all levels of government."
2. That staff remove Strategic Direction number six.

MOVED BY Ms. Outhit, seconded by Mr. Morgan that the Cultural Advisory Committee accept the Strategic Directions as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Whitmore advised that the next steps would be to create sub goals and objectives for each strategic direction. He further advised that staff would prepare a report for the Committee to respond to. The issues and opportunities that have been identified from the Culture Cafes will be included.

Mr. Whittemore advised the Committee that Staff has requested an information report on the

Grant Program process.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** - None

7. **NEW BUSINESS/ADDED ITEMS** - None

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - July 8, 2005

The Committee agreed that the next meeting will be held from 11:00 -1:00.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant