

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**April 2, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Ms. Joan Hicks, Chair  
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair  
Ms. Adriane Abbott  
Ms. Sharen MacPherson  
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt  
Mr. William Barker  
Ms. June Buchanan  
Ms. Sally Camus  
Mr. Michael Cross  
Ms. May Lui  
Mr. Shalom Mandaville

**REGRETS:** Mr. Gary Russell  
Mr. Mohamed Yaffa  
Councillor Andrew Younger

**STAFF:** Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Development  
Ms. Karen Patterson, Cultural Assistant, Cultural Affairs  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall

The Chair noted that at the last meeting there was some discussion on sending future agenda packages by e-mail only. She polled the Committee members and all were in agreement to receive their packages by e-mail, except for Ms. May Lui who does not have Internet service.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOVED by Mr. Mandaville, seconded by Ms. Lui that the minutes of March 5, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

### Additions:

- 6.1 Asian Heritage Month - May Lui
- 6.2 Murals in Woodside and Bedford - Shalom Mandaville
- 6.3 Status of Committee's Work - William Barker
- 6.4 Letter Re: Fallen Peace Officer's Monument - Sharen MacPherson

At 3:08 Ms. Camus entered the meeting.

## 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES AND DEFERRED BUSINESS / STATUS SHEET ITEMS:

### 4.1 Business Arising out of the Minutes and Deferred Business:

#### 4.1.1 Visit to View Civic Artifacts (Betty Ann Aaboe-Milligan)

The Chair indicated that this matter arose from the last meeting as a Committee member questioned if it would be possible to tour the sites where Municipal artifacts have been stored.

Ms. Betty Ann Aaboe-Milligan, Heritage Officer, advised that this year staff intend to consolidate all the artifacts into one large facility. She added that staff are willing to take anyone to visit the storage facility, however, she pointed out that all the pieces are wrapped and in order to view any of them, it would require pulling them from storage and having them unwrapped.

A brief discussion ensued and it was generally agreed that it would not be practical to arrange a tour of the storage facility. It was suggested that it may be helpful if an inventory catalogue was available for the Committee to peruse.

**MOVED by Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Buchanan that staff provide a report on the status of HRM's artwork and artifacts, what is being done with the pieces, and if any advice is needed from the Committee.**

Mr. Whittemore advised that the inventory catalogue would be addressed in the staff report.

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

At this time, Mr. Mandaville introduced Ms. Sharon Fisk, owner of Clayworks. He advised that he invited her to this meeting to familiarize herself with the Committee.

#### **4.2 Status Sheet:**

##### **4.2.1 Public Art Policy**

Mr. Whittemore advised that the staff report has been completed, signed, and is being reviewed by Financial Services.

At 3:27 p.m. Ms. Abbott entered the meeting.

##### **4.2.2 Cultural Functional Plan 2008-2011**

Mr. Whittemore advised that the Plan has been completed and is under internal review.

##### **4.2.3 Cultural Capitals Designation - Update**

Mr. Whittemore advised that he has received two phone calls from Canadian Heritage pertaining to the application. He added that, although a decision will not be made until May he feels quite positive about HRM chances.

##### **4.2.4 Update Khyber/Alderney Gate Landing RFP**

Mr. Whittemore advised that the staff report has been completed and is undergoing the internal review process.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **5.1 Review the Status of Action Plan 2006 - 2008**

Information entitled Cultural Plan Implementation Year Two 2007-08, December 6, 2006; and Short Term Action Plan (2006 - 2008) was submitted.

The Chair advised that she put this item on the agenda to assess what the Committee has done, and what is yet to be done in terms of the action plan.

In response, Mr. Whittemore reviewed the Short Term Actions: 2006- 2008 document providing a status report on each of the policy directions, noted as follows:

- P 1.2 - have asked Council for funding for the positions.
- P 1.5 - key priority in the business plan for this business cycle.
- P 1.8/1 9 - an overall review of Boards and Committees is currently underway under the direction of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. The

Chair advised that this item would be flagged and at some point the Committee will return to this item for a discussion.

- P 1.4 - Done.
- P 1.3/1.18 - through the community grants process there was a review by Financial Services and they have realigned some of the existing funding programs to achieve more of the cultural indicators that are outlined in the Plan. Also, through this year's budget process staff of the cultural division have tried to secure some funds for new grant programs. The budget proposed would reflect funding for public art and a new program for community art. The program details have not been worked out.

The Chair indicated that advice from this Committee may be helpful.

- P1.7 - this was done last year and approved by Council and a new Committee was established to provide advice.
- P1.6 - if the Municipality gets the funding associated with the Cultural Capitals Designation it will be a short term item and, if not, it will be a long term item. With regard to developing terms of reference for a cultural facilities Master Plan, phase 1 is complete. Phase 2 will be an 'immediate term' item.
- P 2.1 - this has not been done.
- P 2.2 - this is underway.

Ms. Hunt indicated that she had some involvement in this matter and it was her view that the cultural component was not being given serious consideration. In response, Mr. Whittemore advised that he would take this comment back to staff.

- P 2.10 - being dealt with in the Cultural Facilities Master Plan.
- P 2.9 - this is underway.
- P 2.5 - this is underway.
- P 3.5 - HRM By Design project - almost finished.
- P 3.4 - this is underway.
- P 3.6 - this is underway.
- P 2.2 - this is underway.
- P 3.8 - this is underway.
- P 3.23 - this is underway.
- P 3.7 - HRM by Design.
- P 4.14 - the Chair advised that the Committee has not had any discussion on this item and there is a lot of public concern. She suggested this was something the Committee could come back and discuss.
- P 4.11 - a work in progress - Andrew Whittemore will come back with performance indicators.
- P 3.5 - HRM By Design.
- P 5.1 - this item is not underway. Suggestion by Andrew Whittemore to start focussing more on a program over the next three years.
- P 4.1/ 4.2 - this has not begun.
- P 5.7 - this is underway.
- P 5.3 - ongoing.

- P 5.8 - Cultural Capitals Designation application has been submitted.
- P 5.1 - a draft policy is completed and is being reviewed by Greater Halifax Partnership.
- P 3.23 - underway.
- P 1.17 - this is a corporate initiative and is underway and ongoing.
- P 2.29 - completed.
- P 4.7 - this was removed previously from the list.
- P 2.8 - staff building a budget around the communication of culture.
- P 3.10 - being dealt with by Urban Design.
- P 2.5 - underway.
- P 2.8 - some of this has been carried out.
- P 5.5 - a priority - a key initiative for this year.
- P 1.15 - presently, responsibility rests with staff in CAO's office.

Mr. Barker indicated that the review illustrates there has been a lot of movement on the various policy initiatives of the Plan, and that he envisions this Committee moving toward more of an oversight role dealing with policy. He advised that if the Committee were to move in this direction then it may only need to meet on a quarterly basis, and he suggested that periodically the Committee should meet without staff and the councillors to reflect on how things are progressing.

At 4:30 p.m. Councillor Uteck retired from the meeting.

A brief discussion ensued and there was general consensus to put the matter raised by Mr. Barker on the agenda of the next meeting. Mr. Barker advised that he would provide his points in writing for the Committee's discussion.

## **6. ADDED ITEMS:**

### **6.4 Letter Re: Fallen Peace Officer's Monument - Sharen MacPherson**

Ms. MacPherson expressed concern with the content of the letter which was sent to the Heritage Advisory Committee from this Committee, advising that she felt the letter was scathing and carried a lot of weight. She added that the issue of the monument did not have a good response at the Heritage Advisory Committee and she felt that it would now affect the presentation which would be going to Regional Council.

Mr. Cross, the Heritage Advisory Committee representative on CAC, provided an overview of the discussion and decision that Heritage Advisory Committee had in regard to the proposal for the monument to Fallen Peace Officers in the Grand Parade. In his comments, he advised that the proposed site for the monument was the only issue that the Heritage Advisory Committee had concern with. Mr. Cross added that he felt the content of the letter accurately reflected the Cultural Advisory Committee's view, and suggested that it did not have the impact on the Heritage Advisory Committee's decision as Ms. MacPherson suggested. He noted that the Heritage Advisory Committee members received the letter when it was circulated at the meeting. He also pointed out that the Heritage Advisory Committee does not have the final say on the issue, and that the final decision rests with Regional Council.

The Chair advised that she appreciated Ms. MacPherson's concern as she presented the proposal at the last meeting due to the staff person being unable to attend, and that she may feel somewhat responsible for the decision that the Heritage Advisory Committee's made. She noted, however, that this Committee agreed that she would forward a letter on behalf of the Committee, and that the content would be based on the points raised in the discussion the Committee had.

**6.1 Asian Heritage Month - May Lui**

Ms. Lui gave a brief update on Asian Heritage Month activities. She advised that the opening ceremony was on Monday, May 5, 2008 and invited all to attend.

**6.2 Murals in Woodside and Bedford - Shalom Mandaville**

Mr. Mandaville noted recent events he attended in Woodside and in Bedford regarding the display of murals.

**6.3 Status of Committee's Work - William Barker**

This was dealt with earlier in the meeting under item 5.1.

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 7, 2008**

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant