

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 20, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Interim Chair

Ms. Adriane Abbott

Ms. Joan Hicks

Ms. Sharen MacPherson

Ms. Sheilagh Hunt

Ms. Sally Camus

Mr. Bill Mont

Councillor Sue Uteck

Mr. Kenneth Paul

REGRETS: Mr. William Barker

Ms. June Buchanan

Mr. Gary Russell

Ms. May Lui

Mr. Jiwanand Bhanot

STAFF: Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture and Heritage

Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. CAC MEMBER RESIGNATIONS

The Chair advised that resignations from the Committee have been received from Mr. Jiwanand Bhanot and Mr. Kenneth Paul. He noted that Mr. Bhanot indicated that he felt he could not make a worthwhile contribution to the Committee, and Mr. Paul will be taking a job in the North West Territories for a year. The Chair added that Mr. Paul has advised that he is still very interested in serving on the Committee and is asking if he could get a year's leave of absence, and have someone appointed in his position until he returns to the Province. He advised that Mr. Paul wanted to speak to the Committee on this matter, and will be attending later.

The Chair also pointed out that the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee have appointed Ms. May Lui as their representative on CAC. He noted that she was unable to be here today because she has broken her ankle.

3. OCTOBER 4TH MEETING

The Chair suggested since the next regular meeting would only be two weeks away, that this meeting replace the October 4th. meeting.

The Committee members concurred with cancelling the October 4, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Richardson noted that, in the interim, should she have any information for the Committee, she will forward it through the Clerk's Office.

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be November 1, 2006 and at that time the Committee can discuss budget and business planning issues and consider a report to Council with recommendation in this regard.

4. CULTURAL CAPITALS OF CANADA PROPOSAL

A document entitled Cultural Capitals Proposal, Halifax 260 "Traditions for Today & Tomorrow" was submitted.

Ms. Richardson referred to the submitted document and noted that it was an outline and that a lot of work was yet to be done before it is finalized. She advised that the Committee needs to make decisions today as the application is due October 15, 2006. She indicated that the decisions need to focus on fine tuning the celebratory aspects of the proposal such as existing celebrations or anniversaries, as this is 50% of what those reviewing the application will be looking for. Ms. Richardson added that she spoke with staff at Canadian Heritage and they stressed the importance of including community partnerships as part of the proposal. In this regard, she advised that the Committee needs to develop a strategy on how to draw partners in on the Project.

Ms. Richardson noted that originally, she hoped that when the matter went to Regional Council, it would have been as a recommendation from the Committee. However, due to time constraints of the approaching application deadline and the various stages it has to go through before it gets on the Council agenda, it appears that it will go to Council as a staff recommendation with the input and endorsement of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the document and the following points were noted:

- Councillor Uteck pointed out that Pier 21 was working towards positioning itself as Canada's National Immigration Museum and advised that she would follow-up and see if there may be some opportunities there.
- Ms. Richardson emphasized the importance of supporting the promotion of professional artists; as well as stressing heritage, diversity, and youth.
- Councillor Uteck advised that on October 7, The Halifax Foundation will be unveiling a statue of Samuel Cunard. She indicated that she was going to see if an invitation could be extended to the Committee members.

At 3:43 p.m. Mr. Kenneth Paul entered the meeting.

Following the overview, the Chair lead a discussion of each of category of the submitted draft Proposal, with the suggestion that the Committee keep in mind the following question: 'What do we want to accomplish under each heading?'

The following comments/ideas were noted with regard to the *Traditions* section:

- develop a website for sharing of resources; it could be launched in 2009 and be an ongoing legacy.
- HRM has started a cultural landscape GIS mapping project with the Prestons being used as a case study. There may be a way to get additional funding to carry on this project. A cultural landscape inventory would a great community development tool.
- a virtual museum site could become a legacy piece.
- develop a program where money is included for each community to hold an event in regard to their community or legacy.
- The Atlantic Acadian Games are being held in this area in 2008.

The following comments/ideas were noted in regard to the *Today* section:

- the working group felt strongly that any more major festivals should not be developed; a suggestion was put forward for a feasible study in 2009 for a future arts festival, and this could be a legacy element.
- TIANS and the Community College should be included in the Stakeholder Group.
- Under the 'Celebration' heading there was consensus to remove the last three bulleted items.
- a lot of informal/nonformal training goes on; we should think of how we can

- incorporate this and keep encouraging people in this regard.
- HRM has a Memorandum of Understanding with Saint Mary's and Dalhousie - the Committee should look at the MOU's in relation to 'life long learning'

The following comments/ideas were noted in regard to the *Tomorrow* section:

- HRM hire an Artist in Residence.
- Feasibility study for more services for youth.
- A permanent mentoring program for youth.
- Get the Department of Education on board as a partner in the youth component.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Richardson advised that staff will take the information, put it in draft form and it will be e-mailed out to the Committee Members for comment. She asked that when members reply back with their comments that they ensure all the members are copied, so that everyone will be aware of all feedback.

The Chair suggested that if the members were in agreement with the direction of the Proposal that it be endorsed with a motion.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Mr. Paul that the Cultural Advisory Committee approve in principle the direction of the Cultural Capitals Proposal. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant