

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 6, 2006**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Ms. Joan Hicks, Vice Chair
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Ms. Sharen MacPherson
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt
Mr. William Barker
Ms. June Buchanan
Ms. Sally Camus
Mr. Bill Mont
Ms. May Lui

REGRETS: Mr. Gary Russell
Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF: Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture & Heritage
Ms. Heather MacLeod-Baudelot, Community Developer
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.

2. Approval of Minutes: September 6, 2006; November 1, 2006

It was noted that the minutes of September 6, 2006 should show Joan Hicks and June Buchanan as sending regrets.

MOVED by Mr. Mont, seconded by Ms. Buchanan that the September 6, 2006 minutes, as revised, and the November 1, 2006 minutes, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At 3:07 p.m. Ms. Abbott entered the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda - Additions/Deletions

The Chair advised that Regional Council recently appointed two new members to fill vacancies on the Committee, however the notification letter from the Mayor's Office has not yet been sent. The Chair suggested that agenda item 4 (Team Building Exercise) be deferred to the January 3, 2006 meeting, when it is expected the new members will be in attendance.

4. Team Building Exercise

Deferred to the January 3, 2006 meeting.

5. Business Arising Out of the Minutes, Deferred Business:

5.1 Letter from Chair RE: Committee Mandate

A letter dated November 27, 2006 from the Chair to the Committee members outlining the role of the Committee was submitted.

At 3:10 p.m. Mr. Barker entered the meeting.

The Chair referred to the information item which was circulated in the agenda packages concerning cultural stakeholders and partners, and asked the Committee members to review it and advise of any changes they were aware of so that the list can become as up-to-date as possible. He advised that staff can then take the revised list and enter it in a database which can be updated periodically.

6. New Business:

6.2 Commonwealth Games Cultural Committee Update

The Chair advised that when the Commonwealth Games Committee created a cultural committee, it overlooked including a representative from HRM. He noted that the Committee has apologized for the oversight and are moving forward to resolve the omission.

6.1 Business Planning Exercise

A list of HRM Cultural Plan's Short Term Objectives detailing the immediate short term priorities (March 2007 - March 2008) and the short term priorities (April 2008 - March 2009) was submitted.

The Chair advised that the purpose of the Business Planning Exercise is to ensure that when the budget is submitted, it will include the appropriate funding levels to meet the Committee's priorities.

Information regarding HRM's Cultural Plan Strategic Directions (dated March 21, 2006) was circulated.

Ms. McLeod-Baudelot referred to the letter which Councillor Younger sent to the Committee members and noting that it reviewed the Committee's role in the business planning process, she advised that she would respond to any questions the members had in this regard.

Ms. McLeod-Baudelot advised that today's goal was to identify the priority areas for the business planning process by identifying theme areas and discussing the challenges the Committee may face in moving forward through the priority list.

Ms. Richardson provided background information on the priorities of the Cultural Plan, and noted that the former Cultural Advisory Committee felt it was important to identify the short term priorities, and this is the list from which the Committee would begin identifying the top priorities.

Ms. Richardson responded to questions, clarifying the Committee's role in identifying priorities.

Referring to the list of short term priorities, Ms. MacLeod-Baudelot then posed the following question to Committee members for consideration and feedback: *If HRM was to focus on two or three priority areas, what would they be?*

The Committee reviewed the Immediate Short Term Priorities and the general consensus for the top priorities were No.'s 1, 5, 4, and 6, detailed as follows:

- Review HRM operations and identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in cultural service delivery (based on business plan priorities)
- Cultural Capital of Canada proposal

- Cultural program enhancements
 - HRM Community and Recreation Centres
 - Develop facility management agreements for HRM-owned heritage & cultural facilities (partnering with cultural organizations)
 - Community grants program development - arts and culture
 - Arts development for children and youth
- Public and Community Art Policy and Program development

The Committee recessed at 4:20 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Abbott had retired from the meeting.

Ms. MacLeod-Baudelot asked for the Committee's feedback on the challenges it may face in going ahead with the priorities, and the following points were noted:

- duplication by stakeholders
- suspicions that the review is being done to cut programs.
- sufficient staff resourcing
- departmental re-organization

In response to questions concerning departmental re-organization, the Chair advised that he would ask Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development to attend the next meeting to speak to the issue of the recent departmental reorganization.

Ms. MacLeod-Baudelot then asked the Committee to consider if there were any of the 2008-2009 priorities that they felt should be moved to the immediate short term priorities (2007-08).

It was generally agreed that Items 1– multi-sector creative community/city strategy (supporting and building creative assets and arts sector); and 7– inter-government culture policy and investment integration should be moved over as an immediate short term priority.

With regard to the last question under consideration, which asked if there were any risks in not addressing any of the 15 priorities in the next year, it was noted that there would be a financial risk if Number 1, i.e. review HRM operations and identify strengths, weaknesses and gaps in cultural service delivery was not addressed.

7. Next Steps

In concluding the discussion, the Chair advised that staff will take the information provided today and summarize it in an information report for the next meeting.

8. Added Items - None

9. Next Meeting Date - January 3, 2007, Halifax Hall

For the information of the Committee members, the Chair advised that if there is a

snowstorm on the day of a Committee meeting, the meeting will probably be cancelled. He added that he will aim to make a decision for no later than 12:00 noon of the day, and the Legislative Assistant will try to reach everyone by phone if the meeting is cancelled.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant