

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 3, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Ms. Joan Hicks, Vice Chair
Ms. Adrian Abbott
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt
Mr. William Barker
Ms. June Buchanan
Mr. Gary Russell
Ms. May Lui
Ms. Megan Williams
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Councillor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Ms. Sharen MacPherson
Ms. Sally Camus

STAFF: Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture & heritage
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call to Order	3
2.	Approval of Minutes	3
3.	Approval of Agenda - Additions/Deletions	3
4.	Business Arising out of the Minutes/Deferred Business:	4
4.1	Team Building Exercise	4
5.	New Business:	4
5.3.	Overview of HRM Grant Program - P.J. Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects	4
5.1	Poet Laureate, Lorri Neilsen Glenn	5
5.2	Community Development Business Unit - Q&A Session - Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development	6
5.4	Cultural Capitals of Canada - Sub-committee	6
6.	Added Items	7
7.	Next Meeting Date	7
8.	Adjournment	7

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall. He welcomed Mr. Shalom Mandaville and Ms. Megan Williams, newly appointed Committee members.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Russell, the minutes of December 6, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. Approval of Agenda - Additions/Deletions

The Chair advised that Mr. Paul Dunphy was ill today, therefore item 5.2 would be forwarded to the next regular meeting.

Ms. Joan Hicks requested that a future agenda include the volunteer planning heritage committee report for discussion.

Ms. Richardson advised that the report was just released and if the Committee wished, she could arrange to have staff attend and present the report at a future meeting.

Mr. Shalom Mandaville indicated that as a recently appointed member, he appreciated the assistance Ms. Richardson has shown him in joining the Committee. Mr. Mandaville advised of the Soil and Water Conservation Society which he founded, and he presented Ms. Richardson with a key chain from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a token of appreciation.

MOVED by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Lui that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. Business Arising out of the Minutes/Deferred Business:

4.1 Team Building Exercise

The Chair facilitated a team building exercise with the Committee as a way for the members to get to know each other better.

5. New Business:

The Committee agreed to deal with item 5.3 at this time.

5.3. Overview of HRM Grant Program - P.J. Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects

Ms. P. J. Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects provided a presentation on her work giving an overview of the programs and money associated with the HRM Grants program. Highlights of her remarks are as follows:

- HRM funds as follows: \$2,437,700 for non profit groups; \$1,074,000 assistance for homeowners.
- eliminated approximately \$900,000 worth of various types of awards in this portfolio over the past several years.
- of the HRM Community Grants Program (\$503,700), the single largest sector is Arts and Crafts, Heritage, Ethno-cultural and this accounts for approximately one third of the funding for the program.
- approximately 150 applications are received each year.
- average 75 to 100 grants per year with the project specific accounts ranging between \$1000 - \$5000; capital grants awarded up to \$25,000.
- the largest program for non profit groups is the tax exemption program - it provides tax assistance to registered nonprofit groups and charities.
- since Amalgamation, in 1996, the program has changed and there is greater increase in funding for the arts and heritage, and most of that share has come from the social services sector which the Province took over in the service exchange at the time of amalgamation.

Ms. Temple responded to questions.

In response to a question by Ms. Hicks, Ms. Temple advised that she could provide a listing of the allocation of annual grants, in a multi year format.

The Chair indicated it would also be good to have this information at the time when the Committee holds a discussion on the Cultural sector of grants.

In response to a concern raised by Ms. Williams regarding statistics on who is receiving grant money, Ms. Richardson advised that staff has almost completed a base case of data on what HRM is spending in the area of culture and, at some point, staff will be able to bring a report to the Committee. This will enable HRM to measure its progress better.

For the information of the new members, the Chair advised that at last meeting the Committee made a decision with regard to the priority items it would work on next year, and that reviewing the funding was the number one item.

Ms. Temple added that if the Committee were to request information from her, and in order for her to respond expediently given the enormous amount of data she works with, she requires that the Committee provide the scope and intent of what it needs the information for.

Councillor Uteck suggested that Ms. Temple provide the Committee with the spreadsheet on community grants that she recently provided to Regional Council.

The Chair noted that the information should also include those that received tax exemptions.

The Chair thanked Ms. Temple for her presentation.

Ms. Temple advised that for the Committee's next meeting she would put together an information package.

5.1 Poet Laureate, Lorri Neilsen Glenn

The Chair introduced Ms. Lorri Neilsen Glenn advising that she was appointed HRM's Poet Laureate.

Ms. Neilsen Glenn thanked the Committee for the invitation and provided background information on herself and then explained her role as HRM's Poet Laureate.

In her remarks Ms. Neilsen Glenn indicated her support for the Cultural Plan and noted that she found some of the response to the Plan to be harsh. She advised that two groups she believed to be an important focus were Youth and New Canadians and noted that she was working on a legacy project that involved these groups. Ms. Neilsen Glenn singled out Ms. Richardson and expressed her appreciation to her for her assistance after she was appointed as Poet Laureate. She explained that the staff person she was dealing with on HRM's cultural matters had left, and Ms. Richardson had stepped in and helped her out at a critical time. Ms. Neilsen Glenn urged the Committee to do what it could to make it possible for one person to have the role of an arts coordinator at HRM. She also suggested that this person could head up an arts council and would be a 'go to' person for those in the arts community. Ms. Neilsen Glenn added that she did not know enough about HRM's organizational chart, but given how busy Ms. Richardson and her supervisor were, and the huge job ahead for the Committee, she suggested there was a need for an additional person to be responsible for arts related issues in HRM. She advised that if there was anything she could do to assist in this regard, she would be pleased to help.

Ms. Neilsen Glenn responded to questions.

In response to a question raised on the selection process for Poet Laureate, the Chair suggested that as Ms. Neilsen Glenn's term comes to an end, the Committee may want to get involved in the selection process for the new appointment.

The Chair thanked Ms. Neilsen Glenn for her presentation and extended an invitation to her to attend the Committee's next meeting to hear Mr. Dunphy's presentation on the re-organization of his Business Unit.

At 4:45 p.m. Mr. Gary Russell retired from the meeting.

5.2 Community Development Business Unit - Q&A Session - Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

During the Approval of the Agenda, this matter was referred to the Committee's next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2007.

5.4 Cultural Capitals of Canada - Sub-committee

The Chair advised that he placed this item on the agenda because it came to his attention the Committee never actually passed a motion recommending to Regional Council that Council recommend the Committee proceed with the bid for the 2010 designation.

MOVED by Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Abbott that the Cultural Advisory Committee

recommend to Regional Council that it authorize the Cultural Advisory Committee to proceed with a bid for the 2010 Cultural Capitals of Canada designation on the basis that staff confirm that there will be available staff resources to assist the committee with the bid, and that Regional Council have final approval on the bid before it is submitted

A discussion ensued and a concern was raised about whether there would be adequate staffing resources to assist with the application process. The Chair advised that Mr. Dunphy has indicated to him that the position which is currently vacant will be filled. The Chair added that Mr. Dunphy will address this issue when he attends the Committee's next meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 6. Added Items - None**
- 7. Next Meeting Date - February 7, 2007**
- 8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant

The following information items were submitted:

- Summary - Business Planning Exercise of December 6, 2006 meeting.
- Updated membership list (as of Dec.'06)