

**CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 7, 2008

PRESENT: Ms. Joan Hicks, Chair
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt
Ms. June Buchanan
Ms. Sally Camus
Mr. Michael Cross
Mr. Gary Russell
Mr. Mohamed Yaffa
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Councillor Andrew Younger

ABSENT: Ms. Sharen MacPherson (regrets)
Mr. William Barker (regrets)
Ms. May Lui (regrets)
Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF: Ms. Mary Angela Munro, Staff Liaison
Ms. Karen Patterson, Cultural Assistant
Mr. Andrew Whitemore, Manager, Community Development
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 2, 2008

The minutes were not dealt with.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

At the request of Mr. Mandaville, item 5.1 was deferred to the next regular meeting.

At the request of Mr. Mandaville, item 5.2 was deleted.

With the noted revisions, the agenda was accepted.

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 Future Direction of the Cultural Advisory Committee

The Chair noted that at the last meeting, Mr. Barker advised that he would provide some points in writing in regard to his vision about the role of the Committee, for a Committee discussion on this matter, however, Mr. Barker was unable to attend this meeting.

The Committee members entered a discussion on the role and responsibilities of the Committee.

At 3:20 p.m. Ms. Abbott and Mr. Yaffa entered the meeting.

It was agreed that this matter would be deferred to the Committee's next regular meeting and the Chair would contact Mr. Barker and ask him to submit his information to the Legislative Assistant and have it circulated along with the Committee's Terms of Reference in the agenda package.

4.2 Status Sheet:

4.2.1 Public Art Policy

Ms. Munro advised that the Public Art Policy has been approved at the Director's level, and it has been forwarded to the Development Liaison Group for review prior to going to Regional Council.

At 3:27 p.m. Mr. Andrew Whittemore entered the meeting.

Mr. Whittemore noted that he attended a meeting today with representatives from the Nova Scotia Economic Development department. One aspect they have been focussing on is the extraction of marble in Nova Scotia, and they want to hold a waterfront festival using local Nova Scotia Marble and invite international sculpturists. He advised that he would keep the Committee updated on this matter.

With regard to the Public Art Policy, Mr. Whittemore advised that it is anticipated it will be before Regional Council in July.

4.2.2 Cultural Functional Plan 2008-2011

Mr. Whittemore advised that the Cultural Functional Plan is still in circulation and, overall, it is receiving positive feedback.

4.2.3 Cultural Capitals Designation

Mr. Whittemore indicated he had no update on this item.

4.2.4 Update Khyber/Alderney Gate Landing RFP

Ms. Munro advised that since there was no response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) staff are proposing to cancel the study and, instead, issue a call to various arts organizations to see if they would be interested in operating the building as a cultural centre. She added that they would be given time to develop a business plan and a vision for using the entire space.

A discussion ensued and Ms. Munro and Mr. Whittemore responded to questions.

The following points were noted:

- currently, the building is not wheelchair accessible; any changes to it should involve installing an elevator on the side.
- it was noted that there is not enough space for an Arts Cluster in the building.
- a suggestion was put forward that information be circulated to the Committee regarding the Request for Proposals

Mr. Mandaville retired from the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Mr. Yaffe retired from the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

- a suggestion was put forward that the Municipality could keep the building, convert it to offices, and rent it out to arts groups at a subsidized rate.
- it was noted that the Municipality should not put a timeline of seven days to submit the Request for Proposals.
- it would be useful to hold an information meeting for those interested in the RFP and staff from the Procurement division could explain the process.

A suggestion was put forward that if the Municipality still owned the former City Club, this site could be used to help make the Khyber an accessible building.

Mr. Whittemore indicated that he would look into the ownership of the building.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Update on Fallen Peace Officers Memorial

This item was deferred during the Approval of the Order of Business.

5.2 'Modus Operandi' of the Cultural Advisory Committee

This item was deleted during the Approval of the Order of Business.

6. ADDED ITEMS:

- Mr. Russell referred to the Committee discussion last month on civic artifacts and advised that he will be volunteering some of his time at the civic archives to help identify and catalogue photographs of festivals and special events. He suggested that he could provide updates to the Committee.
- The Chair noted that volunteer applications were included in the agenda package for anyone wanting to re-offer to serve on the Committee. She suggested that the Committee members submit their application within the next two weeks.

At 4:38 p.m. Mr. Mandaville returned to the meeting.

- Mr. Whittemore provided a brief overview of the budget approved by Regional Council for the Culture division. The Chair asked Mr. Whittemore to submit a copy of the budget to the Committee for the next meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 4, 2008

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant