

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 12, 2005

PRESENT:

Councillor Uteck
Councillor Streach (11:20)
Shahin Sayadi
Gordon Morgan
Margie Clow-Bohan
Andrew Inch
Allison Outhit

REGRETS:

Betty Thomas
Elias Metlej
Paul Greenhalgh
Dave Roberts
Jeffery Spalding (Absent)
Gary Vermeir (Absent)
Mike LaLeune (Absent)

STAFF

& OTHERS:

Andrew Whittemore, Executive Assistant CAO
Holly Richardson, Community Developer Officer, Recreation, Tourism
and Culture
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Corrections:

1. Ms. Holly Richardson's title to be changed to Community Developer Officer
2. The Departments name is Recreation, Tourism and Culture
3. Page 4, seconded paragraph, that Goal 25 be divided into a two part goal as follows:
 1. Create opportunities for artist
 2. Broaden the arts audience in communities
4. Page 4 paragraph five - Ms. Clow Bohan clarified that the committee has to have an affirmative procurement policy whereby HRM artist are being patronized over artist s from outside HRM.
5. That the motion on page 6 be corrected to state **"MOVED BY Mr. Andrew Inch, seconded by Ms. Margie Clow- Bohan that the Cultural Advisory Committee approve the revised draft goals, objectives, issues and opportunities of the Cultural Plan, in principle, pending review of the final Draft. MOTION PUT AND PASSED."**

MOVED by Mr. Gordon Morgan, seconded by Ms. Alison Outhit that the minutes of July 22, 2005 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1.1 Goal Development

- A revised documented entitled Cultural Plan Draft Goals and Objectives dated July 29, 2005 was previously circulated to Committee Members for discussion.

Mr. Sayadi raised concern in reference to Goal 13, after a brief discussion the Chair

suggested that it be put on the table for discussion after the original motion is ratified for further discussion. See page 9

In response to Councillor Streach regarding Goal 10 and 12. Staff advised of the following:

- The goals and objectives do not provided detail, but rather a decision making framework. The next step is to provide a policy and implementation framework to Regional Council.
- Staff will be meeting with the Director of Finance in regards to allocation of funds from the sale of public lands.
- Ten percent of the funds from the sale of public lands is allocated to the Heritage Reserve.
- The intent is to recommend that two percent of the ten percent reserve be allocated to culture. Part of the process is to review the current reserve as it that relates to to cultural development and make sure a portion is dedicated to cultural goals and objectives.
- Goal 18 objective one is currently under review.

Ms. Holly Richardson advised the Committee that the following proposed additions have been identified through a gap analysis undertaken by staff on July 24th and input from the July 27th Industry Workshop. She further commented the next stage in the process is to begin writing the policies.

ADDITIONS:

Focussed Service Delivery and Partnerships:

1. Develop mechanisms to draw on the expertise of the cultural sector in policy and program development. **The Committee agreed to add this to Goal 12 Objective 1.**
2. Work with the Province to ensure complimentary links to the NS Cultural Sector Strategy including partnered projects and implementation of shared cultural development goals. **The Committee agreed to add this to Goal 2.**

In response to Councillor Streach, Councillor Uteck advised that the Committee made a recommendation to form a permanent Committee. This has not been brought forward to the Membership Selection Committee or Regional Council yet. She further added that the Committee would recommend to the Membership Selection Committee to draw on expertise in community.

Ms. Outhit commented that one of the major concerns is creating a mechanism so that there is no overlap.

Mr. Morgan commented that it is incumbent on the Committee to provide criteria for membership selection.

In response to Ms. Clow - Bohan, Ms. Richardson advised that further consultation would be conducted and that the Greater Halifax Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce have been invited to previous workshops and that business representatives will be sent special invitations for the upcoming focus groups.

3. Enable cultural organizations more streamlined access to funding and resources through a tiered grants delivery approach to enhance equity and reduce competition
The Committee agreed to add this to Goal Number 12.

Councillor Uteck asked how staff intend to create a tiered program. Mr. Whittemore advised that all funds are currently in one pool of funds and that you may have an air show competing with a festival. Staff is considering dividing the program into three groups, community, regional and international as categories. Council will need to decide where they want to put emphasis and how much will be contributed from the budgeting process. Staff would like to see dedicated funding to community festivals and events which are currently not benefiting from our current process. Ms. Richardson added that staff is recommending an investment strategy and investment targets. .

In response to Councillor Streach, Mr. Whittemore commented that the difficulty is determining what percentage should be allocated among the three categories and how it should be applied. Whether or not more staff would be required to implement the Cultural Plan will be examined as part of the restructuring process. It has not be determined if some of the funds would come from grants that is the next step in the process.

Cultural Access & Awareness:

1. Increase opportunities for the presentation of art and cultural activity using public, private, and community facilities and spaces *of all types*
The Committee agreed that this replace Goal 10 Objective one.
2. Ms. Richardson suggested that “ Maximise HRM spaces and facilities bo become culturally friendly” be **added to Goal 10 the Committee agreed.**
3. **The Committee agreed** that the addition “Require that a neighbourhood cultural asset inventory be undertaken for new development (public or private) identifying significant cultural resources, cultural infrastructure gaps, and opportunity to incorporate new cultural infrastructure into the existing landscape” **be reworded as follows:** “Explore

mechanisms for a cultural asset inventory be undertaken for new development (public or private) identifying significant cultural resources, cultural infrastructure gaps, and opportunity to incorporate new cultural infrastructure into the existing landscape” and that it be **added to Goal 19.**

Mr. Morgan commented that there may be duplication under Goal 9 and Goal 7. Ms. Richards commented that there are two different objectives and suggested that opportunities in cultural development be incorporated in development.

4. Councillor Uteck advised that “Develop an HRM “Green” Infrastructure program to build HRM’s open space through demonstration projects and community-based funding programs” is currently being done and advised staff to consult with Ms. Cathie O’Toole regarding the program.
5. In regards to **Goal 21** the **Committee agreed to** reword the objective as follows “Increase cultural venue and gathering space along Halifax and Dartmouth waterfront and other HRM coastal areas.”
6. The Committee agreed to add “Develop a combination of multi-use and compatible specialized cultural community spaces” **as an objective under Strategic Direction 4.**

There was no discussion on the following additions:

1. Community Character
2. Heritage
3. Life long learning and education
4. Community Development
5. Economic Development and Investment

Food and entertainment:

A discussion ensued regarding changing the heading of “Food and Entertainment” to food and drink. There was concern over the term drink and the Committee **agreed** to change the heading to “Food” and **delete** “Use land-use policy and Community Plans to emphasize and facilitate the development of multi-purpose entertainment and neighborhood residential districts” as it would be used to support projects.”

Sports and Leisure:

Ms. Richardson commented that there is debate on whether sports is part of culture and that it is important for the CAC to determine what they want to say about sports as it will determine

if HRM considers sport as part of culture.

Councillor Uteck advised that sport and leisure fall under the tiered program. For example regional, community and international. Ms. Richardson commented that sports would indirectly be addressed through events, there are no strong goals attached to the major events strategy. Ms. Outhit commented that the Committee had previously agreed to take a broad approach to culture and that there will always be a connection between sports in HRM . It means access to facilities to everybody. It is part of our life as a region.

1. The Committee **agreed to add** “Undertake a review of infrastructure in support of HRM’s ability to host major events and develop a five-year strategy to address deficiencies and gaps” **as an objective.**

MOVED BY Ms. Margie Clow Bohan, seconded by Ms. Allison Outhit that the Cultural Advisory Committee ratify the revised goals and objectives dated July 29, 2005 including the recommendations as a result of the gap analysis conducted by staff on July 24, 2005 and July 27, 2005 Industry Workshop. MOTION PUT AND PASSED. A discussion ensued regarding Strategic Direction # 2 Goal 13 and the following comments were made:

In reference to Goal 13 Mr. Sayadi commented that there is a barrier to funding for immigrants. Ms. Richardson commented that the goal is not linked to artist. That the Cultural Plan may not directly address immigrant issues but rather complement the immigration strategy. She further suggested that the goal be reworded “to enhance Cultural support services.”

Ms. Allison Outhit suggested that Goal 13, objective one be reworded to state “ to Link funding for support organizations linked to HRM’s cultural development...” She further commented that if you link funding to our goals such as access, there will be no duplication of service and funding of artists groups.

Mr. Shahin agreed with Ms. Outhit’s comment but questioned how it would be done. Councillor Uteck suggested that the funding program would operate the same as the Grants Program. Mr. Shahin further commented that the funds should remain with the Grants Program for distribution and not given to other organizations for distribution as they are likely to use the funding to further their own agenda. HRM needs to determine how to bring more diverse culture to HRM.

Ms. Richardson suggested that a separate program for visible minorities be created. Councillor Streach commented that it was to his understanding that the Committee agreed not to separate the program into groups that the individual/organization must stand on its own merits regardless of race/culture.

Mr. Shahin commented that immigrants would be at the bottom of the list. They must be given the same opportunity when they arrive in Halifax.

The Committee agreed to defer Goal 13. The Chair recommended and the Committee agreed that staff:

1. Consult with Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Coordinator regarding the political correct terms when addressing visible minorities.
2. Request to be added to the Race Relations Committee agenda for discussion to discuss and receive feedback on barriers to funding and access to programs for visible minorities/immigrants.
5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None
6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** - None
7. **NEW BUSINESS/ADDED ITEMS** - None
8. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular scheduled meeting is August 26, 2005.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant