

**CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
INTRODUCTORY MEETING  
August 29, 2006**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Andrew Younger  
Councillor Sue Uteck  
Ms. Adriane Abbott  
Ms. Joan Hicks  
Ms. Sharen MacPherson  
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt  
Mr. Kenneth Paul  
Mr. William Barker  
Mr. Jiwanand Bhanot  
Mr. Bill Mont  
Mr. Gary Russell

**REGRETS:** Ms. June Buchanan  
Ms. Sally Camus

**STAFF:** Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture and Heritage  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS .....	3
1.1	Election of Interim Chair .....	3
2.	OVERVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE .....	3
3.	OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROCEDURES/PROCESS .....	4
3.1	Schedule of Meetings .....	4
4.	CULTURAL PLAN OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES .....	4
5.	COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RE IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN .....	5
6.	CULTURAL CAPITALS OF CANADA PROGRAM - COMMITTEE INPUT/ASSISTANCE TO APPLICATION .....	5
7.	ADJOURNMENT .....	6

## **1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

### **1.1 Election of Interim Chair**

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall. She advised that an interim chair would be elected for the first couple of meetings in order that Committee members would have an opportunity to get to know one another. The Chair and Vice Chair would be elected in the near future.

The Legislative Assistant asked for nominations and Mr. Barker nominated Councillor Younger to serve as interim Chair; to which the Councillor agreed.

Councillor Younger introduced the staff members present and asked the Committee members to introduce themselves. He provided a brief overview of the process that an advisory committee of Regional Council follows and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Holly Richardson.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- A copy of the Cultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, dated May 1, 2006 was submitted.

Ms. Richardson provided a presentation on the role of the committee, beginning with an overview of the previous Cultural Advisory Committee and the Cultural Plan which it developed. She noted that the new committee, which has a two year timeframe, is a result of a policy and action item contained in the Cultural Plan. Ms. Richardson also pointed out that this committee will be developing overall procedures, policies, and other areas of the Cultural Plan that need further development, and she noted that the committee members would serve as a key link to the people involved in the sectors they represent.

Ms. Richardson highlighted the following as additional aspects that the Committee would deal with:

- Measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of programs and report to Council on an annual basis.
- Awareness of community promotion.
- Leveraging \$2 million in funding through the Cultural Capitals of Canada program.
- Create a community strategy, as a need for a multi-sector community strategy has been identified as a priority.
- Cross committee collaboration will be key; representatives from the Heritage Advisory Committee; the Advisory Committee of Persons with Disabilities; and the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee will sit on the Committee.
- Explore alternative governance models for certain areas.

Further to Ms. Richardson's presentation, Councillor Uteck referred the Committee to page 63 of the Cultural Plan and advised that under the title of Short Term Action Plan, there was a succinct list of the Committee's goals.

Ms. Richardson responded to questions.

### **3. OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROCEDURES/PROCESS**

#### **3.1 Schedule of Meetings**

- A copy of the HRM Board and Committee Guide was submitted.

The Committee discussed and **agreed** that the regular monthly meeting would be scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Noting that the next meeting would be the following Wednesday, the Chair asked if the Committee wanted to meet then or wait until October 4, 2006 to have its next meeting.

The members **agreed** to hold the next meeting on September 6, 2006.

The Chair provided a brief review of the process for preparing and distributing agenda packages. He asked that for the next meeting, staff contact information be provided to the members.

### **4. CULTURAL PLAN OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

Ms. Richardson circulated a copy of her presentation.

Ms. Richardson reviewed the Cultural Plan objectives and priorities for the information of the Committee, elaborating on the following highlights:

1. key milestones in the development and approval of the plan
2. the scope of the Cultural plan
3. the strategic direction of the Plan as it pertains to: service delivery and partnerships; cultural access and equity; community character and heritage; life-long learning and creative expression; and investment and promotion.
4. the implementation of the short, medium, and long term objectives which span from the years 2006 -2015; and the implementation priorities.

The Committee entered a brief discussion with Ms. Richardson responding to questions.

### **5. COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RE IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN**

This matter had been dealt with in Ms. Richardson's presentation on the Terms of

Reference (agenda item 2)

**6. CULTURAL CAPITALS OF CANADA PROGRAM - COMMITTEE  
INPUT/ASSISTANCE TO APPLICATION**

- A copy of the Cultural Capitals of Canada 2009 Guidelines (Department of Canadian Heritage) was submitted.

Ms. Richardson explained the Cultural Capital of Canada designation program and the benefits to the Municipality, if it were chosen. She noted that the submitted application form is for the year 2009, and that if the Committee wanted to get involved in the application process, the deadline for applications was October 15, 2006. Ms. Richardson advised that HRM applied for this award two years ago but was not successful. She added that, since this time, staff feel the Municipality has a much stronger case.

Ms. Richardson indicated that if the Committee wanted to pursue the application, staff could dedicate one person to work on it with the Committee over the next few weeks. She suggested that at the next Committee meeting a facilitated discussion be held on the application to determine the areas in which to focus.

A discussion ensued and the Committee was in general agreement to proceed with the application process.

In concluding the meeting, the Chair advised that for the next meeting, Ms. Richardson will contact representatives involved with the program to get a better idea of the detail required on the application; and that Ms. Heather McLeod, Community Developer, will be invited to attend the meeting and inform the Committee about her work in this regard.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant