

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 2, 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ms. Joan Hicks, Vice Chair
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt
Mr. William Barker
Ms. June Buchanan
Mr. Gary Russell
Ms. Megan Williams
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Mr. Michael Cross
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Ms. Sally Camus
Ms. May Lui
Ms. Sharen MacPherson

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

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in the Media Room, City Hall at 3:00 p.m. by the Vice Chair.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Ms. Hunt that the minutes of February 7, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Williams referred to page 4 of the March 7, 2007 minutes and requested that her comments be amended to reflect that she noted the importance of Aliant having contracts with artists for copywrite.

There was general consensus to amend the minutes as requested by Ms. Williams.

MOVED by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Abbott that the minutes of March 7, 2007, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Referring to the March minutes, the Chair noted that Ms. Hunt had asked that a future agenda include an item on Common Land. The Chair advised that this would be placed on the June agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda - Additions/Deletions

Addition:

6.1 Half-Day Committee Workshop

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

Mr. Russell questioned if a decision has been made about a permanent meeting location.

Ms. Richardson advised that, initially Councillor Younger wanted to meet in the Councillors' Lounge, however, due to accessibility issues, it was agreed that another location would be found.

Councillor Uteck advised that she would look at the availability of Halifax Hall as a permanent meeting location.

5. New Business:

5.1 Urban Design Task Force - Update by Adriane Abbott

Ms. Abbott advised that the Task Forces will be holding a series of public forums; the next

one is June 11 - 13. The final presentation will be in November and the objective is to have concrete policies by the end of the sessions. Ms. Abbott advised that as she receives information on the upcoming forums, she will circulate to this Committee.

5.2 Business Plan and Budget Highlights

A document entitled *HRM Cultural Plan Business Plan and Budget Highlights 2007-08* was submitted.

Ms. Richardson reviewed the business plan and budget, highlighting the following:

- \$50,000 for an arts cluster program
- \$83,000 for a Cultural Asset Inventory and Plan
- \$97,000 for a Public Art Program Development

Ms. Richardson responded to questions.

5.4 Public Art Policy

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

A draft copy of the *Proposed HRM Public Art Policy and Procedures* was submitted.

Ms. Richardson circulated additional briefing notes on the Proposed HRM Public Art Policy and Procedures.

Ms. Richardson advised that the brief which she circulated outlined the stage at which HRM is at in regard to a policy on Public Art. She added that the larger draft document is still in discussion form and that one of the key issues staff are dealing with is the scope of how HRM wants to define art. Ms. Richardson noted that the City had previously focussed on memorials and monuments and, in the past, it has always been a situation of the community approaching the Municipality rather than the Municipality leading the way. She also added that the Municipality does not have clear guidelines around design merit, and that the tendency has been to focus on historical significance. Ms. Richardson indicated that the overall goal is to put a strong art policy in place with objectives and a procedure.

Ms. Richardson advised that she would like feedback from the Committee, particularly the artists. In addition, she will carry out research on other cities and come back with a working definition of public art.

The Committee entered a discussion on the draft policy with the following comments put forward:

- Section 2.2 i) - the last sentence should be removed
- when something is placed in the municipal right of way, it should be done by looking through the 'cultural lens'

At 4:11 p.m. Deputy Mayor Uteck retired from meeting.

- Ms. Abbott advised that she could provide definitions and suggestions in regard to public art
- the Municipality has some catching up to do in the areas of contemporary art
- do not put restrictions on the policy by limiting it to local artists only - it could be a practice but it should not be in the overall goals
- clarification required on the idea of public private community collaborations
- tourism should not be promoted through public art policy
- develop an authentic identity for HRM
- support the concept of peer juries
- draft policy and procedures seem to focus more on larger projects - what will be done with smaller projects - the policy has to have a cut-off point.

Following the discussion, Ms. Richardson advised that the draft policy is a working document and that she will be taking feedback from this committee and the staff committee and will come back at the July meeting with an update. She added that her objective is to have a recommendation before Regional Council by the fall.

5.3 Khyber Arts Cluster Overview

The following information was submitted:

- Background Information on the Khyber Building/Church of England
- Khyber Arts Cluster Facility Development
- HRM Cultural Plan - Policies Respecting Cultural Facility and Infrastructure Development
- Khyber Arts Cluster Feasibility and Concept Study Scope - April 2, 2007
- Khyber Community Meeting Notes - March 2007
- Cultural Spaces Canada Program Application Guidelines

The Chair advised that the basic premise of this project is based on a partnership and cluster approach and that staff are looking for feedback on this and the need for a feasibility concept study.

For the information of the Committee, Ms. Williams noted that she is currently working on a project with the Khyber building. She indicated that should the Committee feel she may be in conflict, she would excuse herself from the discussion. The Committee agreed that Ms. Williams was not in conflict and should participate in the discussion.

Ms. Richardson advised that she is looking for the Committee's approval in principle of the Partnership and the Cluster approach. As well, she added that she would like one member of this committee to participate in developing the Request for Proposals for the Feasibility Study and to work with a committee of consultants to move this forward.

Ms. Richardson indicated that staff view the Khyber Arts Cluster as setting a positive precedent for HRM in terms of developing cluster arts facilities, and in developing a partnership approach and leveraging other money from other partners. She added that staff intend to use it as a model in the future.

A brief discussion ensued with Ms. Richardson reviewing the present condition of the Khyber building and the associated cost for repairs. She noted that a strategy needs to

be developed that rationalizes why HRM is continuing to hold on to the building.

Ms. Buchanan volunteered to participate on the Feasibility Concept Committee.

At 4:50 p.m. Mr. Russell retired from the meeting.

6. Added Items

6.1 Half-Day Committee Workshop

The Chair advised that Councillor Younger sent out a notice concerning the Committee getting together for a half-day workshop. She added that staff were suggesting this session be held in mid to late June.

Ms. Richardson added that this would also be an opportunity for the Cultural Capital Committee to provide an update.

The Committee was in general agreement that last two weeks of June would be an acceptable time to hold the workshop. Ms. Richardson indicated she would coordinate the setting of a date.

7. Next Meeting Date - June 6, 2007

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant

The following items were submitted as information:

- Asian Heritage Month Planning Committee Opening Ceremony (submitted by May Lui)
- *Spacemaking in Culture - LED Regeneration* (submitted by Holly Richardson)