

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 18, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Ms. Joan Hicks, Vice Chair
Ms. Sharen MacPherson
Ms. Sally Camus
Mr. Mohammad Yaffa
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck

ABSENT: Ms. Sheilagh Hunt (regrets)
Ms. June Buchanan (regrets)
Mr. Gary Russell (regrets)
Ms. May Lui (regrets)
Mr. Shalom Mandaville (regrets)
Mr. William Barker (regrets)
Mr. Michael Cross

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

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1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. without a quorum present.

He introduced Lieut. Commander Pat Jessop and Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Doucette, advising that they were from the Department of Defence and were in attendance at his invitation to provide their comments in regard to the Cultural Capitals of Canada Application.

The Chair also introduced Mr. Ralston MacDonnell, Mr. Gary Furlong, and Ms. Sarah VanderMeer, the consultants hired to work on the application for the Cultural Capitals designation.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Mohammad Yaffa, a recent appointee to the Committee, filling the vacancy left by Ms. Megan Williams.

2. Approval of Minutes - September 5, 2007

Deferred due to lack of quorum

3. Approval of Agenda - Additions/Deletions

None.

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

4.1 Cultural Capitals of Canada Application

Mr. Ralston MacDonnell addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the application as it stands to date. A copy of his presentation was submitted. In his remarks he advised that the objective is to have a balanced program over the year, with the events falling under one of the three focus areas, which are:

- Celebrating our Port City
- Gateway to the Arts
- Building Creative Communities

Mr. MacDonnell elaborated on the program details, highlighting the events planned for the year, and noted whether it was a new activity or an expanded activity. As well, he pointed out the programs that would be legacy-building activities. Mr. MacDonnell also advised that the Canadian Navy Centennial Celebrations are occurring the same year and indicated that these events will correspond with the Program. In concluding the presentation Mr. MacDonnell outlined the partnership development process and reviewed the various themes they developed for the Program. He advised that they chose the phrase, *Living our Culture* as the overarching theme.

At 10:08 a.m. Deputy Mayor Uteck entered the meeting, and a **quorum was present**.

The Committee and the representatives from the Department of National Defence entered a discussion and provided feedback on the presentation.

The following comments were provided:

- ensure public awareness of the year-long celebration; e.g. by using advertisement such as banners on buildings or on light standards.
- the theme does not suggest that it is uniquely Halifax - - it should make reference to the port or the ocean.
- the application should reflect the fact that the program will have ongoing benefits and that it is not something that will begin and end in 2010.
- the Navy will not be looking for any share of the award, should HRM be successful in its bid.
- a suggestion was put forward that a piece of public art be provided which celebrates the Navy's Centennial.
- engage the writers and authors of the area in the program.
- include the Acadian community.
- create a collaboration with the immigrant community that would have a lasting impact.
- contact representatives at Alderney Landing and the Community College; the Community College has been looking at expanding their art gallery and to engage community members.
- the Discovery Centre is looking for cultural partnerships within the downtown community.
- consider involving Pier 21 and The Farmer's Market.

At 10:49 a.m. Deputy Mayor Uteck retired from the meeting; **quorum was lost**.

The Chair advised that the document will be revised and come back to the November 7, 2007 meeting. He added that staff are working under tight timelines and are targeting the Regional Council meeting in early December to submit the report. He suggested that if anyone had further comments to add, to e-mail them to Ms. Richardson by Monday morning.

Ms. Richardson summarized the next steps as follows:

- leading up to the report going to Regional Council, a press release could be sent out from the Chair which would give the broader community notice of the application.
- contact will be made with the missing links, i.e. MISA, Pier 21, and perhaps Word on the Street.
- the partners and some of the supporters will be brought together for a group discussion; the Cultural Advisory Committee will be invited to attend.

Ms. Richardson noted that due to time constraints, the Committee may not get the full draft a week ahead of time, but that it may be e-mailed prior to the next meeting.

5. New Business: None

6. Added Items: None

7. **Next Meeting Date** - November 7, 2007

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant