

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## **CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES September 6, 2006**

**PRESENT:** William Barker (Acting Chair)  
Adriane Abbott  
Sharen MacPherson  
Sheilagh Hunt  
Kenneth Paul  
Jiwanand Bhanot  
Bill Mont  
Gary Russell

**ABSENT:** Councillor Sue Uteck (Regrets)  
Councillor Andrew Younger (Regrets)  
Joan Hicks (regrets)  
June Buchanan (regrets)  
Sally Camus

**STAFF:** Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture & Heritage  
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. **without a quorum.**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - None

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

The agenda was agreed upon as distributed.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Cultural Capitals of Canada Program Application - Discussion**

- The Cultural Capitals of Canada 2009 Guidelines were before the Committee.
- Key points of HRM's 2005 application were distributed to Committee members.
- Cultural Capitals of Canada 2005 Advisory Committee Members feedback to HRM's 2005 application were distributed to Committee members.

Ms. Holly Richardson provided an overview of the Cultural Capitals of Canada Program, noting the following:

- The program is a grant offered to Canadian municipalities, and includes a contribution to support special activities that celebrate the arts and culture and build a cultural legacy for the community,
- HRM would fall under the Level 1 application, for municipalities with a population over 125,000, which would grant HRM 75% of total eligible costs up to a max. of \$2,000,000,
- HRM made an unsuccessful application for the program in 2005, however, this was prior to the drafting of the Cultural Plan or any policy or vision for arts and culture within HRM,
- The deadline for the application is October 15, 2006,
- The application will identify key partners such as other arts and cultural organizations in HRM, however, it is not a prerequisite to have input from such organizations prior to submitting the application.

Ms. Richardson reviewed the application with the Committee, including the following:

- Activities eligible for funding - celebration and legacy-building,
- Eligible expenses for funding,
- Activities not eligible for funding,
- Expected results,

- Reporting on results,
- Conditions of funding.

Ms. Richardson briefly reviewed HRM's 2005 application, along with feedback provided by the Cultural Capitals of Canada 2005 Advisory Committee.

Mr. Kenneth Paul arrived at 3:22 p.m., **at which time a quorum was achieved.**

The Committee discussed the application, making the following suggestions for new and existing celebratory and legacy building events for the application, including the following:

- Tall Ships will be returning to Halifax in 2009,
- Halifax Explosion anniversary
- Boat building mentoring,
- Cunard Lines tourism tie-in,
- 400 year anniversary of the baptism of Chief Membertou,
- National Aboriginal Day - June 21, 2006,
- Treaty Day - October 1, 2006,
- Annual One Shilling Transfer for Point Pleasant Park,
- Symphony Nova Scotia / Jazz East events,
- The 2014 Commonwealth Games bid,
- The 2011 Canada Games bid.

Mr. Mont suggested seeking feedback from various arts and cultural organizations with regard to ideas for events. Ms. Richardson noted that HRM and Destination Halifax oversee an events listing which contains hundreds of events in HRM.

Arts and culture projects were suggested, including the following:

- Pier 21 immigrant and descendant stories,
- History behind Public Gardens,
- "Did you know" facts about Halifax, including an interactive website,
- History of Haligonians in HRM's cemeteries,
- Statues of present day HRM citizens (example: Triest, Italy),
- A book celebrating arts and culture in HRM, including work from local artists and writers,
- Incorporating information and artifacts from the newly opened HRM Archives.

Themes for the application were discussed, including the following:

- "Past into the Present" with a focus on living heritage,
- Multicultural / Diversity theme,
- 260<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Halifax (in 2009),

- “Traditions for Today”.

Ms. Richardson indicated that the next meeting of the Cultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 4, 2006. She advised that staff are seeking endorsement from the Committee to go ahead with the application for the Cultural Capitals of Canada program. She recommended that a working group be struck with staff and members of the Committee to develop the application. Ms. Richardson noted that after the application is compiled, it will go before Regional Council for approval. She indicated that an Information Report will likely go to Council this coming Tuesday to advise members of Council that staff and the Committee will be working on the application and outline the program for the information of Council members.

**MOVED by Mr. Gary Russell, seconded by Mr. Jiwananad Bhanot, that a sub-committee of the Cultural Advisory Committee be formed to develop, in conjunction with staff, the Cultural Capitals of Canada 2009 proposal, bring the proposal before the Cultural Advisory Committee for recommendation to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Richardson advised that a Community Developer has been assigned to the proposal, along with herself, to develop the proposal with the working group. Mr. Bill Mont, Ms. Adriane Aabbott, Ms. Sheilagh Hunt, and Mr. Kenneth Paul volunteered for the working group.

Ms. Richardson proposed that due to the short time line to develop the application (the application is due October 15, 2006), the working group hold several two hour evening meetings within the next two weeks. She noted that once the draft application is completed, staff will present to the Executive Management Team (tentative September 20<sup>th</sup>), hold a special meeting of the Cultural Advisory Committee for recommendation to Council, and have the draft proposal to Regional Council on September 26<sup>th</sup>, leaving a few weeks for fine tuning of the proposal before submitting.

At the request of the Committee, the Legislative Assistant advised that the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee representative to the Cultural Advisory Committee will be appointed this coming Thursday.

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

### **5.1 Civic Pride & Community Art Pilot Project (Information Item - Holly Richardson)**

The Committee agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Cultural Advisory Committee.

**6. ADDED ITEMS**

Mr. Mont requested that Committee members be provided with HRM business cards, identifying their name, their Committee, and a phone number for the HRM lead staff person on the Committee, for resident submissions and input. The Legislative Assistant advised she will look into this matter and advise accordingly.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Cultural Advisory Committee was scheduled for October 4, 2006, however, Ms. Richardson advised that this date may need to be moved forward for the Committee to make a recommendation to Council regarding the application. She will be in contact with Committee members regarding the date of this meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant