

SPECIAL ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 9, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Jessica Kerrin
Mr. Alex McLean
Ms. Monique LeBlanc
Mr. Gordon Whittaker
Ms. Laura Simpson
Mr. Bruce Johnson
Councillor Wayne Mason

REGRETS: Ms. Susanne Chui
Mr. Jonny Stevens

STAFF: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events & Cultural Initiatives
Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Public Art Facilitator
Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Assistant called the first meeting of the Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

1.1 Introduction and general discussion of mandate

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor welcomed the Committee members to the first meeting, and she and Mr. Jamie MacLellan provided a brief overview of the Committee's mandate.

Councillor Mason addressed the Committee and indicated that he brought forward this initiative and noted that the process is on a short timeframe in order that it can feed into HRM's budget process for 2014/15.

Round table introductions were made.

1.2 Discussion of Committee goals and objectives in relation to timeline

Ms. Taylor introduced the following HRM staff: Mary Angela Munro, Area Coordinator, Regional Recreation and Culture; Ms. Peta Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants, and Special Projects; and Leticia Smillie, Cultural Planner. She explained that she thought it would be beneficial for the Committee to be briefed on the HRM's current practices for funding in regard to arts and culture and each staff person will provide a presentation on the area which they support.

1.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Simpson, seconded by Councillor Mason that Gordon Whittaker be nominated as Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations; there being none it was **MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. McLean that nominations close. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative assistant declared Mr. Whittaker as Chair.

Mr. Whittaker assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOVED by Mr. McLean, seconded by Councillor Mason that Ms. Simpson be nominated as Vice Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations; there being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc that nominations close. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair declared Ms. Simpson as Vice Chair of the Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

1.4 Scheduling a regular meeting date/time/location

A discussion ensued and the Committee came to consensus on the following dates for meetings:

- September 20, 2013
- October 11, 2013
- October 25, 2013
- November 15, 2013
- November 29, 2013
- December 6, 2013

Meetings will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in the Media Room, City Hall.

1.5 Project Mapping and Workplan Development

Mr. MacLellan indicated that it was too early in the process to map the project and to develop a workplan, but it was something the Committee would begin to consider after hearing the staff presentations.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

The Chair advised that if there were no concerns from the Committee, staff were suggesting item 6.2 be dealt with prior to item 6.1, **to which it was agreed.**

MOVED by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Ms. Kerrin that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: None

5. DEFERRED ITEMS– None

6. REPORTS

6.2 Staff: Community Grants – Arts and Crafts Overview, HRM tax exemption policy – PJ Temple

Ms. Peta-Jane (P.J.) Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants, and Special Projects circulated a document entitled, 'Grants Program Portfolio: Synopsis (Programs under the HRM Grants Committee)'.

For the information of the Committee Ms. Temple provided a presentation on HRM's Grants Program portfolio, beginning with the history of the Program, explaining how it came together following the amalgamation of the four municipal units. She then reviewed the various programs which currently fall under the Grants Program, their budgeted amounts for 2013, and a description and brief explanation of the purpose of this program. Ms. Temple also noted the role of the Grants Committee and Regional Council in this process. In her remarks, Ms. Temple advised that at key point for the Committee to be cognizant of is that HRM is governed by a Charter (granted by the Province) and the Charter does not permit the Municipality to provide grants to individuals.

Ms. Temple responded to questions.

At 2:24 p.m. the Committee recessed.

At 2:32 p.m. the Committee reconvened.

6.1 Staff: Comparative Municipal Funding Analysis Report – Mary Angela Munro

Ms. Mary Angela Munro, Area Coordinator, Regional Recreation and Culture addressed the Committee and provided an overview of a report which had been submitted to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, entitled Comparative Analysis for Municipal Cultural Investments (dated February 26, 2013). The report was in response to a request by the Standing Committee for staff to carry out a municipal comparative analysis of support for arts and cultural programs. In her presentation, Ms. Munro provided a high level overview of HRM's cultural funding and addressed two studies relating to HRM's municipal cultural investment which have generated discussion over the past year. The studies referred to are Municipal Cultural Investment in Five Large Canadian Cities, and the "Hamilton Study". Both studies were facilitated by Hill Strategies Research Inc.

Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture, noted that the Committee was under time constraints today but that staff want to go through this in detail. She added that staff was aware of the discussion generated over the Hamilton Study's results which indicated that HRM's per capita investment in arts and culture was \$0.55 and want to review the analysis with the Committee. Ms. Schofield pointed out that HRM is currently participating in a similar study which will provide a third part assessment of HRM's level of funding.

Ms. Munro and Ms. Schofield responded to questions.

The Chair advised that, due to time constraints at today's meeting, staff will come back at the next meeting for further discussion on Ms. Munro's presentation.

Prior to adjourning, the Chair asked the Committee members for feedback on Ms. Temple's presentation. The following comments were put forward:

- The legalities around HRM and the relationship with the Province, i.e. no support for individuals was noteworthy;
- The merit aspect is missing in the assessment of grants;
- Grants funding is so broad; would be good to see focussed funding on the arts;
- The presentation illustrated that the Grants program needs changing from the status quo;
- Unclear about the assessment process and how the recommendations are made or challenged--would like someone from the Grants Committee to attend a meeting and explain how the decisions are made;
- To be more strategic with the funding, alignment is key and all involved need to pull together so that we know where organizations are getting all their sources of funding;
- Would be interested in exploring how to make information better available and how is it kept internally, i.e how is a profile of an applicant maintained, and, it would be interesting to explore the idea that 'things are done the way they are, because that is the way they have always been done.'
- Not clear yet what the key issues are for the Committee to focus on; interested in finding out more on the communication piece and how clients are tracked internally; would like to know what 'oversubscribed' means.

7. ADDED ITEMS - None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - September 20, 2013

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant