

SPECIAL ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 25, 2013

- PRESENT: Mr. Gordon Whittaker, Chair
 Ms. Laura Simpson, Vice Chair
 Ms. Susanne Chui
 Mr. Bruce Johnson
 Ms. Jessica Kerrin
 Mr. Alex McLean
 Ms. Monique LeBlanc
 Councillor Waye Mason
- REGRETS: Mr. Jonny Stevens
- STAFF: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events & Cultural Initiatives
 Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Public Art Facilitator
 Ms. Mary Angela Munro, Area Coordinator
 Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

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.

MOVED by Ms. Kerrin, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason entered the meeting at this time. He submitted information pertaining to the annual amount of arts funding spent by the cities of Waterloo, Ottawa, Windsor, London, and Winnipeg.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: None

5. DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence:

6.2 Petitions

Mr. Alex McLean entered the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

6.3 Presentations: Amy Melmock, general Manager, Neptune Theatre

Ms. Amy Melmock, General Manager, Neptune Theatre provided a presentation on Neptune Theatre's impact on the Municipality, in particular, economically. She noted the financial challenges of the Theatre and encouraged HRM to ensure Neptune is front and centre in discussions around HRM's creative economy. She also recommended that HRM help the Theatre maintain their tax exemption by recommending that they be given special recognition as a major provider of cultural infrastructure, and in providing Neptune with a base of operating support that is in keeping with its role as a major cultural institution in HRM.

Ms. Melmock responded to questions and the Chair thanked her for providing her presentation.

Ms. Melmock retired from the meeting.

The Chair asked for feedback on the presentation and the following points were noted:

- The Theatre needs funding that gives them predictability
- Having to apply every year for tax exemption provides instability to the Theatre
- There should be some sort of process to enable the Theatre to get multi-year funding
- Multi-year operating funding is key for the Theatre

At 9:30 a.m. Councillor Mason retired from the meeting.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Discussion of SACAC Recommendations Working Document

The Chair explained that the Committee's working document would be categorized in three areas: Funding, Structure and Process, and Communications.

With regard to Funding, he advised that the level of funding is a key piece and questioned how the Committee will come up with a recommendation. He added that the Committee is trying to get to a point where it can provide strong comparisons with benchmark cities; however, he did not yet have a sense of what this may look like.

Ms. Munro indicated that the work she has been doing will be a good resource for the Committee. She detailed her work in determining how much per capita the Municipality spends and advised that it worked out to be about \$1.00 per capita, which is quite low compared to other cities.

The Chair suggested the next step would be to compare with other cities, and the Committee then determine where it believes the amount should be set.

Ms. Munro referred to the Hamilton Study and the Kelly Hill Study and advised that she would be carrying out further work with in this regard and would report back before the next meeting.

A discussion was held on what groups get access to municipal funding.

The Chair noted that it would be beneficial to have real clarity in terms of defining the various groups that seek funding.

The Committee entered a discussion on the working document format and areas of responsibility that Committee members could take the lead on.

The Chair and Ms. Simpson agreed to look after the Funding area of the working document.

Mr. Johnson volunteered to take the lead on the Structure and Process area.

Ms. Kerrin volunteered to take the lead on the Communications piece.

Mr. McLean volunteered to oversee the updating and writing of the document.

The Chair advised that all Committee members are welcomed to contribute in all the areas and the 'lead' for each area will take ownership of their piece and keep the Google document up-to-date.

At 10:05 a.m. Ms. Simpson retired from the meeting.

Guest Presentations:

Prior to adjourning the Chair advised that staff had developed a list of potential guest presenters to attend upcoming meetings, and he would like to review this and see where they could be accommodated, given the few meetings of the Committee that remain.

Ms. Taylor advised of the following:

- Chris Shore – November 29th meeting
- Peggy Thibeault Cameron – November 29th meeting
- Staff representative of HRM's Procurement – November 15th meeting
- Staff representative of HRM's Legal Services – November 15th meeting

Other possible presenters included:

- Craig Beaton, Director of Culture and Heritage Development
- A representative from Canada Council
- Staff representative from HRM Marketing and Communications

Mr. MacLellan noted that the guest presenters have asked to be provided with specific information the Committee wants them to address.

Following a brief discussion, there was general consensus that the staff representative from HRM's Procurement would be removed from the list; and that the staff representative from HRM Marketing and Communications would be asked to present at the November 15th meeting.

The Chair noted that with three remaining meetings, and with six presenters, there would be two presenters per meeting, and he recommended that the two presentations take no more than 45 minutes in total.

Ms. Taylor noted that Neptune Theatre had reached out to staff to request the presentation they made today. She pointed out that Symphony Nova Scotia (SNS) was

another major cultural institution in HRM and she questioned if the Committee wanted to advise SNS that they could provide a presentation if they wished.

The Chair advised that he would reach out to Symphony Nova Scotia and indicate that they could provide a presentation if they wished.

8. ADDED ITEMS

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 15, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant