

SPECIAL ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 20, 2013

PRESENT: Mr. Gordon Whittaker, Chair
Ms. Laura Simpson, Vice Chair
Ms. Susanne Chui
Mr. Jonny Stevens
Mr. Bruce Johnson
Ms. Jessica Kerrin
Ms. Monique LeBlanc
Councillor Wayne Mason

REGRETS: Mr. Alex McLean

STAFF: 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 Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc that the minutes of September 9, 2013 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Committee Debrief of September 9, 2013 Meeting

The Chair referenced a document he e-mailed to the Committee (a framework for discussion), and advised that he prepared it after the Committee's last meeting, based on the feedback he heard, and from a discussion he and Councillor Mason had. The Chair explained that the framework could be a starting point for an approach for Committee discussion.

4.2 Discussion of Committee Draft Focus Areas and Topics

The Chair explained that the framework for discussion was broken into five focus areas and topics, and this came out of eight key points from the Committee's discussion. The focus areas were broken into the following categories: Resources, Process/Structure, Human Resources, Client Interface and Alignment, and Short-medium and Long Term Plan. The Chair then opened the floor for discussion.

A brief discussion ensued with regard to various ways, other than funding, the Municipality could demonstrate its support for local artists. Mr. Stevens cited the City of Austin, Texas as a model to study in this regard.

5. DEFERRED ITEMS: None

6. REPORTS:

6.1 Staff: Comparative Municipal Funding Analysis Report- Mary Angela Munro (cont.'d from Sept. 9, 2013 meeting)

Ms. Mary Angela Munro, Area Coordinator, Regional Recreation and Culture was in attendance to continue the discussion with the Committee on the Comparative Analysis

for Municipal Cultural Investments report from the last meeting. In her remarks, Ms. Munro advised that HRM is currently participating in a study by Hill Strategies, aimed at identifying municipal cultural investment for a variety of mid-sized cities across Canada. She noted that she has one week left to submit Halifax data, and that the final version of the study will be completed in January, but that she would be able to share the information she provides to the study with the Committee prior to January.

Ms. Munro, and Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture responded to questions.

6.2 Staff: Introduction to the Culture and Heritage Chapter of the RP+5 Regional Plan Five-Year Review, and Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan- Leticia Smillie

Ms. Leticia Smillie, Cultural Planner, Planning and Infrastructure, provided a review of the Culture and Heritage Chapter of the draft RP +5 Plan, highlighting the key policies. She began her remarks by providing a background on the Regional Plan and the Cultural Plan and advised that with the Cultural Plan, the issue for staff has been in determining how to execute something that has such broad policy. She added that what is needed is a clear strategy, and this is the reason for developing the Cultural and Heritage Priorities Plan

Ms. Smillie added that the majority of the Committee's work would feed into the work on arts development and perhaps some of the cultural infrastructure piece. She further added that the first phase of the Plan is to carry out a physical inventory and she noted that some of the work has already happened. Next would be an analysis phase, and the final phase is developing priorities.

At 9:50 a.m. Ms. Chui retired from the meeting.

Ms. Smillie entered a discussion with the Committee, and responded to questions.

The Chair asked the members if they had any questions about the topics they wish to raise, and in response Councillor Mason clarified that the Plan is a more of a Municipal Planning Strategy document and not as much a strategy document. He explained that there is nothing in the document about the government having a role in supporting the arts, and that he views the core debate coming out of this Committee is to convince Regional Council to have a role in supporting the arts.

A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that the Municipality has lost out on arts opportunities because people involved in this sector have a difficult time in connecting with appropriate Municipal staff. In response, Ms. Schofield advised that her department is the main contact in this regard and she added that an important deliverable from the Committee is to link the key people in the arts community to key HRM staff.

Ms. Simpson suggested that the Committee should be thinking about developing a definition of who they represent.

The Chair concurred adding that the challenge for the Committee is to figure out if they

support everyone in Arts and Culture or if it is a more defined group.

Councillor Mason pointed out that the mandate of the Committee is to focus on professional arts, and he further added that the Committee may find it has to define 'professional arts'.

Ms. Simpson suggested that it would be beneficial if the Committee had a list of HRM's regular clients, so that the Committee will know who they are dealing with.

In response, Ms. Schofield advised that staff will provide a list of all the groups that received funding and other groups which HRM has a relationship with. Also, she would provide information on those groups that apply but are not approved for funding.

Mr. MacLellan noted that at a future meeting staff were intending to bring in Legal Services staff to speak to the Charter, and he added that it may also be beneficial to bring in staff from the Procurement department.

7. ADDED ITEMS: None

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 11, 2013.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant