

**CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**May 6, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Streach  
Councillor Uteck  
Gary Vermeir  
Mike LaLeune  
Andrew Inch  
Shahin Sayadi  
Margie Clow-Bohan  
Elias Metlej  
Jeffery Spalding  
Allison Outhit  
Dave Roberts

**REGRETS:**

Paul Greenhalgh  
Gordon Morgan

**STAFF**

**& OTHERS:**

Andrew Whittemore, Executive Assistant CAO  
Holly Richardson, Programmer, Recreation & Tourism  
Margaret Soley, Coordinator, Deputy CAO's Office  
Heather Macleod - Baudelot, Community Recreation Programmer  
Jennifer Beck, Project Manager, Corporate Communications  
Grant Longard, Student Intern, Corporate Communications  
Rachel Harrison, Student Intern, Recreation & Tourism  
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	Call to Order .....	3
2.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair .....	3
3.	Approval of the Minutes April 15, 2005	
4.	Order of Business and Additions and Deletions .....	3
5.	Business Arising Out of The Minutes .....	4
5.1	Status Sheet Items .....	4
5.1.1	Communications Website Design .....	4
6.	Consideration of Deferred Business - None .....	4
7.	Correspondence, Delegations, Petitions - None .....	4
8.	New Business/Added Items .....	4
8.1	New Business .....	4
8.1.1	Confirm Values and Principles .....	4
8.1.2	Vision Statement .....	4
8.1.3	Strategic Direction and Goals .....	6
8.1.4	Discussion Paper .....	6
8.1.5	Consultation and Communications .....	6
8.1.5.1	Website Design .....	6
8.1.5.2	Public Opinion Survey .....	6
8.1.5.3	Press Conference .....	6
8.1.5.4	Community Events .....	6
8.1.5.5	Stakeholder Interest .....	6
8.1.5.6	Public Consultation Program .....	6
8.2	Added Items .....	6
8.2.1	Terms of Reference .....	6
9.	Next Meeting Date .....	6
10	Adjournment .....	6

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Streach, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Councillor Streach, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Cultural Advisory Committee.

Ms. Holly Richardson advised the Committee that the Terms of Reference specifies that the position of Chair must be a member of the public.

After a brief discussion the Committee agreed to elect two Vice Chairs.

Ms. Allison Outhit was nominated to be Vice Chair and Mr. Andrew Inch volunteered to be Vice Chair.

There being no further nominations or volunteers for the position of Chair or Vice Chair, the following motion was placed.

**MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Mr. Mike LaLeune that Councillor Uteck be appointed Chair, pending amendment to the Terms of Reference and that Mr. Andrew Inch and Ms. Alison Outhit be appointed Vice- Chairs. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 15, 2005**

Changes:

Item 4.5 page 7 - The name "Mr. Gordon Vermeir" should read "Mr. Gordon Morgan."

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Mr. Mike LaLeune that the minutes of April 18, 2005 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Additions:

8.1.5.6 Public Consultation Program

**MOVED by Mr. Gary Vermeir, seconded by Ms. Allison Outhit, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**5.1 Status Sheet Items**

5.1.1 Communications Website Design - See item 8.1.5

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None**

**8. NEW BUSINESS/ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 New Business**

Copies of the following documents were before the Committee for consideration.

- Cultural Plan Discussion Paper Extract - The Vision
- Cultural Goals Scan
- Public Opinion Survey
- Upcoming Mass Public Events
- Public Consultation Program

**8.1.1 Confirm Values and Principles**

As a result of the discussion in item 8.1.2 Committee members identified that access, accountability, authenticity, creativity, participation, partnership, stewardship, sustainability, excellence, innovation, creativity, diversity, community, and celebration are key values.

**8.1.2 Vision Statement**

Mr. Andrew Whittemore gave an overview of the vision statements of London, England, St. Catharines, Ontario, Port Coquitlam, BC, and Red Deer, Alberta. He asked the Committee to provide individual thought and reflection to answer the following questions within the framework of the Cultural Plans six key themes.

1. What is your wish respecting where HRM needs to go in the future? Think about what you value, what you want to protect, and what things you would change.
2. How should we get there? Think about what needs to be done, and where we should focus our energy and resources.

A discussion ensued and it was noted that:

- the vision statement should be broad and not limited in scope
- a strong statement is required.
- the Cultural Plan must be an all-encompassing policy that will provide a decision making framework for financial investment from HRM
- the vision statement should guide the policy that will be endorsed
- HRM may not be the cultural capital but it has the resources and ability to become the cultural capital
- all levels of government need to work together to provide sustainable funding to cultural organizations
- the plan must integrate heritage and history
- all policy goals and objectives must be mutually inclusive
- culture is an economic driver
- a basic understanding of the key concepts is required
- multiculturalism is all inclusive

Mr. Whittemore advised the Committee that the intent of the draft discussion paper is to guide the Committee. A vision statement is required so that the community has something to respond to.

In response to Mr. Shahin Sayadi, Holly Richardson commented that the philosophy behind cultural diversity is how to build unique communities through the services that HRM provides. Staff is looking at community diversity in terms of difference. Mr. Shahin Sayadi commented that if this is the case why is “community diversity” a separate element. Mr. Andrew Whittemore commented that it was a way for staff to categorize the issues and that all goals and objectives must be mutually supportive. He advised the Committee that if having “community diversity” as a separate element was sending the wrong message, that it could be removed and be added as a component of the other elements.

Mr. Shahin Sayadi raised concern over the term multicultural, as it relates to community diversity. It was observed that if it references the culture of others. Mr. Gary Vermeir commented that rather than multicultural he sees it as the development of cultural activities of neighbourhoods. He went on to note that HRM is made up of various neighbourhoods, as opposed to various groups and cultures.

Mr. Jeffery Spalding commented that the uniqueness of Halifax is that it is the economic capital, educational centre and administrative capital. If HRM is not the cultural capital then it needs to answer the following questions:

1) How is HRM going to get there ?

- 2) Does HRM have the resources to get there?
- 3) Does HRM want to be the producers or assimilators of culture?

The Cultural Plan will help HRM recognize if it is doing the right or wrong thing on all aspects. If HRM wants to be the cultural capital it needs to take proactive actions to attract and retain its creative people.

Following the discussion of the vision statement the Committee agreed that a more in-depth discussion is required before the vision statement was finalized.

**MOVED BY Mr. Andrew Inch, seconded by Mr. Mike LaLeune that items 8.1.3, 8.1.4 and item 8.1.5 be deferred to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8.1.3 Strategic Direction and Goals - Deferred**

**8.1.4 Discussion Paper - Deferred**

**8.1.5 Consultation and Communications - Deferred**

- 8.1.5.1 Website Design
- 8.1.5.2 Public Opinion Survey
- 8.1.5.3 Press Conference
- 8.1.5.4 Community Events
- 8.1.5.5 Stakeholder Interest
- 8.1.5.6 Public Consultation Program

All items under 8.1.5 have been deferred.

**8.2 Added Items**

**8.2.1 Terms of Reference**

**MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Ms. Alison Outhit that the Cultural Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council amend the Cultural Advisory Committees Terms of Reference such that:**

- 1. A member of Council can hold the position of Chair or Vice Chair.**
- 2. The Committee may elect two Vice - Chairs**
- 3. The membership be increased by one to allow for the appointment of a member of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

It was agreed that the next meeting date will be Friday, May 27 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons  
Legislative Assistant