

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 28, 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Uteck
Councillor Streach
Gary Vermeir
Andrew Inch
Paul Greenhalgh
Shahin Sayadi
Margie Clow-Bohan

REGRETS: Gordon Morgan
Elias Metlej
Betty Thomas
Mike LaLeune

STAFF: Andrew Whittemore, Executive Assistant CAO
Holly Richardson, Community Developer, Recreation Tourism &
Culture
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
4.1	STATUS SHEET ITEMS	4
4.1	Status Sheet Items	4
4.1.1	Vision Statement	5
4.1.2	Policy Framework	7
4.1.3	Public Consultation	7
4.1.3.1	Community Open Houses	7
4.1.3.2	Phase II - On line survey	7
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	7
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS	7
7.	ADDED ITEMS	8
8.	NEXT MEETING DATE	8
9.	ADJOURNMENT	9

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:08.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

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

C A document "HRM Cultural Plan Implementation Workshop Summary" dated October 11, 2005 was circulated to the Committee for information.

C A letter dated October 27, 2005 from Mr. Keith McPhail, Cultural Officer, HRM, regarding the Canadian Arts Coalition Lobby was circulated to the Committee for consideration and discussion at the next Cultural Advisory Committee meeting.

C A copy fo the Fall 2005 issue of The Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artist was circulated to the committee for information.

Mr. Greenhalgh advised the Committee that NSCAD is seeking infrastructure funding from the Infrastructure and Communities Program led by Minister of State, John Godfrey.

Councillor Streach requested clarification regarding the documents that have been circulated to the Committee at the meeting. Councillor Uteck advised that the document entitled Community Open House meeting is for information only. The policy priorities from the focus groups discussion is for approval in principle. Most of the discussion regarding these documents has been though e-mail. Councillor Streach advised that since he just received this information he is not prepared to approve the documents. Councillor Uteck advised that the vision statement is for approval today and that they will be discussing the framework.

MOVED BY Mr. Sayadi, seconded by Mr. Vermeir that the agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Vision Statement

C A revised draft Vision statement dated October 11, 2005 was circulated to the committee for consideration.

Councillor Uteck advised the Committee of the current status of the draft vision statement. Committee members had varying views as to the purpose of the vision statement and what should be included.

Mr. Sayadi raised concern about the word "Maritimes", as it limits what HRM has to offer when comparing HRM to other cities/ municipalities in the country. In response to Mr. Sayadi Councillor Uteck commented that the emphasis of the vision statement is to build cultural confidence in HRM.

Mr. Greenhalgh commented that some of the statements in the vision statement are not true. HRM is not as culturally diverse compared to other cities. There are many racial tensions in HRM that have not been addressed. Although, HRM is becoming more diverse, it does not have a very good immigration policy. Halifax is an extraordinary City with many strengths. The Committee may want to emphasize the truths and hint to the region's ambitions rather than state them.

Mr. Inch entered the meeting at 11:31

Councillor Streach commented that it was to his understanding that the Committee agreed not to have a vision statement. In response to Councillor Streach, Councillor Uteck commented that the vision statement should reflect the seven pillars of the goals and objectives which will set the priorities and policy directions.

Councillor Streach advised that he disagreed with a number of the statements. The Councillor suggested that there is too much concern with political correctness and that a lot of citizens do not agree that they have the opportunity to express their beliefs and feelings. He advised the Committee that he is uncomfortable with the Committee's direction and tendered his resignation.

Councillor Streach left the meeting at 11:34.

After a brief discussion regarding membership the Committee continued its discussion regarding the vision statement.

Mr. Sayadi commented that the use of the term "cultural capital of the Maritimes" has a negative connotation. Later in the meeting Mr. Sayadi explained that it implies that HRM will never be as good as other cities in Canada.

In response to Mr. Sayadi's comments a detailed discussion ensued, Committee Members had varying views regarding the use of the term and varying alternatives were suggested by the Committee. The Committee agreed that Halifax is the Cultural Center of the province and in order to defend and promote itself it needs to be more aggressive.

After further discussion, Ms. Clow Bohan suggested that the Legislative Assistant send out a revised vision statement as per the Committee's suggestions for review and consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Whittemore stated that staff was seeking approval of the vision statement today, as staff needs to move forward. At this time the Chair proceeded with agenda item 4.1.2.

4.1.2 Policy Framework

C A document entitled Cultural Plan Development: Staff work Plan dated October 28, 2005 was circulated to the Committee for information.

Ms. Richardson reviewed the document as presented and noted the following:

C Staff has completed the focus group's sessions and that members of the Committee and staff had a workshop to identify policy priorities and implementation.

C Staff will begin to develop a comprehensive policy document and an implementation plan based on the identified priorities and identify capital infrastructure projects for implementation in the short medium and long term.

C A draft plan will be available for the Committee next week.

C A public art policy is currently being developed which will be brought forward to the Committee for discussion in a couple of weeks.

C An evaluation framework with includes indicators and measurements will be part of the plan.

C There are three Community Open Houses tentatively scheduled for November.

C Staff has been networking with community organizations.

C A youth group will be working with staff on the show your culture campaign.

C They are a number of research pieces that need to be included in the policy. Staff is researching what other cities are doing in regards to governance and municipal operation models. In addition to new funds for a Cultural Plan, HRM ,cultural service delivery is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Councillor Uteck commented that the cultural policy needs to be reflected in all business units in order sell it to the public. Otherwise, there will be a fragmentation of communication. In response to Mr. Vermeir, Councillor Uteck stated that there needs to be a reorganization of

how resources are managed. Mr. Richardson advised that there are a number of mechanisms that can be used such as restructuring the Culture and Heritage Department and communication strategies between business units. There is a permanent Internal Cultural Advisory Committee. She will continue to meet with HRM's Executive and Senior Management Teams to encourage support.

Councillor Uteck commented that there are two controversial priorities and recommendations, the creation of an Art's Council and the lack of arts programs in the education system. Feedback from the focus groups has suggested that the supplementary funding for arts and music programs be removed from the schools and that those funds be put into organizations that are providing the service. Committee members agreed that a visiting artist program and the shifting of funds to organizations that provide art and music programs were good ideas but will become complicated when money is introduced.

Ms. Richardson advised that the first draft of Cultural Plan is intended to go before council on December 13, 2005 and the final draft on February 28, 2006. Due to the amount of work that is still required she is recommending that additional meetings be scheduled for November.

Ms. Clow - Bohan raised concern regarding four hour meetings during the day as Committee members still need to return to work to complete their work. The Committee may need to consider evening meetings.

The Committee agreed that the next meetings will be November 18 and November 25.

At this time the Committee resumed discussions regarding the vision statement. The discussion began with the use of the terms "leader, cultural centre and Maritimes." There was a general consensus that HRM is the cultural centre of the Maritimes. However, some Committee members felt that if Halifax is to be recognized as a cultural centre of Canada then it needs to be stated.

Mr. Greenhalgh commented that Halifax is not in the top five across Canada in regards to culture. HRM is the Cultural Centre of Atlantic Canada. However, it will never rival Toronto, Vancouver, or Montreal. HRM is behind Winnipeg and struggling with Edmonton. HRM is less cultural than any of those cities.

In response to concern that the discussion was not moving forward, Mr. Whittemore proceeded to facilitate the remainder of the discussion via the 80/20 rule to move the discussion forward. He advised the Committee that if they can live with 80% of the vision statement then they have achieved their goal. In response to Mr. Whittemore there was a general consensus that the term Atlantic Canada was appropriate. Mr. Sayadi disagreed as it implies that Halifax will never be as good as other provinces.

Mr. Sayadi raised concern regarding the process and indicated that he was against the use

of the term Atlantic Canada.

After further discussion the following motion was placed:

MOVED BY Mr. Inch, seconded by Mr. Greenhalgh that the Cultural Advisory Committees approve the following vision statement:

“Culture is a pillar of economic and social well being. HRM is the Cultural Center of Atlantic Canada, a status that is maintained through its aggressive development enhancement and investment in a multitude of cultural assets. Cultural values are entrenched in the Regions land use, economic strategies and community policies. Culture forms the identity and sense of place of the Region and Residents feel an innate sense of belonging and community pride.

HRM constantly strives to be a cultural panorama of geographically and socially diverse communities, a rich mosaic of natural beauty, heritage, artistic creation leading colleges and universities and leisure.

All residents of HRM are stakeholders. Collaboration, incentives and lasting partnerships between all stakeholders ensures the success of Culture in HRM.”

Mr. Shahin raised concern regarding the method used to arrive at the draft vision statement. Mr. Shahin left the meeting at 12:54. With no quorum present, and in response to the Committee, the Chair advised that the question has not been resolved and therefore the revised draft vision statement will be brought forward at the next meeting for consideration and approval.

4.1.3 Public Consultation

4.1.3.1 Community Open Houses

C A document entitled Community Open House meetings Cultural Plan dated October 28, 2005 was circulated to the committee for information.

See item 4.1.2

4.1.3.2 Phase II - On line survey

C A document entitled Cultural Plan Public Opinion Survey Phase II was circulated to the Committee.

There was no discussion.

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

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS** - None

7. **ADDED ITEMS**

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

See discussion at item 4.1.2

The next regular scheduled meeting is November 10, 2005

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant