

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 18, 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Uteck
Andrew Inch
Margie Clow-Bohan
Elias Metlej
Mike LaLeune
Councillor Streach

REGRETS: Gordon Morgan
Betty Thomas
Gary Vermeir (Absent)
Paul Greenhalgh
Shahin Sayadi (Absent)

STAFF: Holly Richardson, Community Developer, Recreation Tourism &
Culture
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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- C A revised Staff Work Plan dated November 17, 2005 was circulated to the Committee for information.

Without a quorum being present the Chair advised that due to the recent Committee of the Whole Sessions regarding Council priorities that she has advised staff that it would be in the Committees best interest to defer sending the Draft Cultural Plan to Regional Council on December 13, 2005.

Ms. Richardson advised that an information report to Regional Council is planned for December 6, 2005 and that the first draft of the Cultural Plan to Committee of the Whole and Regional Council is planned for January 9, 2006 with the final draft plan to Regional Council on February 28, 2006.

Without a quorum being present the members that were present agreed to have a general discussion regarding the Draft Cultural Plan Policy Document.

Mr. Metlej entered the discussion at 11:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum now present the Chair called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 14, 2005 & October 28, 2005

MOVED BY Mr. LaLeune, seconded by Mr. Inch that the minutes of October 14, 2005 and October 28, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

In reference to the minutes dated October 14, 2005 (page 4 item 6.2.1) Mr. LaLeune advised the Committee that the consultant did prorate the provincial figures as a result it understates the impact of economic activity in Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Chair requested that the e-mail response from Mr. LaLeune be re-circulated as an information item in the next agenda package.

Ms. Richardson advised that Gardner Pinfold is going to prepare a formal response to the Committees questions.

In reference to the minutes of October 28, 2005 (page 4 item 4.1.1) Councillor Streach noted for the record that after careful consideration and consultation with the Chair and further to a

request from Mayor Kelly that he has withdrawn his resignation and will continue as a member of the Committee.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

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 28, 2005 was circulated to the Committee for consideration.

Mr. LaLeune commented that it is not in the Committees best interest to exclude other forms of learning institutions and focus on universities. (Page 6 item 3.3).

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Mr. Inch 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.”

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Draft Cultural Plan Policy Document

C A Staff report dated November 18, 2005 entitled Draft Cultural Plan Policy Document was before the Committee for discussion.

The Chair advised that the intent of the discussion today is to focus on content. She further recommended that rather than approve the draft Cultural Plan Policy Document that the Committee endorse in principle the overall objectives for content and policy direction.

MOVED BY Mr. LaLeune, seconded by Mr. Metlej that the Cultural Advisory Committee endorse in principle the draft Cultural Policy Document as per Attachment 2.0 of the staff report dated November 18, 2005 to enable further consultation with the community and stakeholders using the draft goals and policy statements to seek further input into the development of the implementation framework. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:

Page 12, policy 1.5

The Committee agreed that policy 1.5 be revised to "HRM will research & consider ."

Ms. Richardson commented that at the implementation workshop it was suggested that the artists and community assist in the development of the decision making criteria for the pier review process.

Page 14, policy 1.11

In response to Mr. Metlej, Councillor Uteck suggested that the Committee develop the membership criteria as part of the recommendation.

In response to Councillor Streach, Mr. Inch advised that the creation of a new Cultural Advisory Committee is separate from the creation of an Arts Council. Mr. LaLeune commented that the intent of the new Cultural Advisory Committee is to advise Council on the implementation of the plan.

Ms. Richardson advised the Committee that staff is researching models used in other cities that focus on special issues and opportunities.

Page 13, policy 18

In response to Councillor Streach, Councillor Uteck clarified that the focus is on how to

achieve better cost/benefits in supporting the events in communities as a whole.

Page 6 policy 3.3

Mr. LaLeune recommended that the reference to universities be replaced with 'Learning' and further that Quality of life be changed to " amenities" The Committee agreed to the changes.

Ms. Richardson advised that due to the gap analysis staff added the following policy directives:

Page 24, policy 2.8

This has been added to respond to the concern's persons with disabilities. In response to the Committees questions she clarified that it is not a pillar of culture it's focus is on access and opportunity to ensure inclusion in cultural activities.

The Chair further clarified that the Cultural Plan needs to link to other business unit mandates and will make references to other strategies. The emphasis is on awareness and collaboration. Accessibility to buildings is part of Real Property and Asset Management Business Unit and is addressed in the Regional Plan.

Mr. Inch raised concern regarding the naming of individual groups and organizations in the Cultural Plan. Councillor Streach commented that the Committee should not predispose as to who should be doing what and *recommended that staff remove all references to individuals and specific organizations. The Committee agreed.*

Mr. LaLeune commented that at the Interdepartmental/CAC Workshop that staff introduced the term "cultural lens". He asked for clarification as to where the term came from. Staff had indicated that it is the notion that decision would be screened through a cultural lens and be considered under those terms. He further commented that he would like to see design issues considered from a cultural point of view. The Chair stressed the importance of business units working together. Ms. Richardson commented that policy 1.6., Page 12 addresses the need for a specific policy to be developed to consider cultural needs.

Page 29, goal 13 policy 3.12

Ms. Richardson advised that this policy was added in response to the plan not referencing HRM's traditional cultures.

A discussion ensued and the Committee had varying views as to the term " founding cultures." There were also suggestions that the terms aboriginal, colonial and modern and

early Canadian be used. It was also noted that attaching a time period may provoke other issues with other diverse groups who have been here longer or as long as other groups.

Councillor Streach commented that the policy makes it easier for others to buy into the rest of the plan, when it recognizes that there is an existing culture.

Ms. Richardson advised that there is a Social Heritage Committee and suggested that she bring forward the policy for input and direction and bring it back to the CAC. The Committee agreed.

Page 35 policy 4.1

Ms. Richardson advised that there has been a lot of discussion on the concept of the "Learning City". This policy directive fits within the concept of life long learning and outlines a number of partnership opportunities. In response to Mr. LaLeune she advised that the plan recognizes the library as a cultural hub, working together for shared program and service delivery.

Page 36 policy 4.6 and 4.7

Ms. Richardson advised that the need for a creative community strategy has been identified. The Committee recommends that policy 4.7 be reworded to remove references to organizations and universities.

Page 42 policy 5.10

This policy requires further discussion regarding alternative financing mechanism and the importance of understanding that HRM Regional Council cannot do all of these things.

Mr. Metlej suggested that a portion of the deed transfer tax for the development of a cultural centre be allocated to culture. Staff advised that they would explore this alternative.

Page 44, policy 5.23

Ms. Richardson advised that this policy requires more discussion. She recommended that the plan be for 10 years with a three year tiered implementation approach. Staff will report back with actions attached to the phases.

Page 45, attachment one

Ms. Richardson commented that there is a need for decision making criteria to enable Council to better prioritize cultural services and focus on strategic planning.

Councillor Uteck raised concern regarding the term “*undue competition*,” page 46 item 3. Who would determine undue competition? *The Committee agreed that this was debatable and requested that it be removed.*

7.1.1 Vision Statement - See page 4

7.1.2 Creation Cultural Advisory Committee Policy Development Sub Committee

MOVED BY Councillor Streach, seconded by Mr. Metlej that the Cultural Advisory Committee approve the establishment of a joint Cultural Advisory Committee HRM staff working committee to further develop the Cultural Plan Policy and Implementation Framework, for review and approval by the Cultural Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Uteck volunteered to serve on the sub Committee.

8. ADDED ITEMS - None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m..

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant