

CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

December 5, 2007

- PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair
Mr. William Barker
Mr. Shalom Mandaville
Ms. Sharen MacPherson
Mr. Michael Cross
Ms. June Buchanan
Ms. Sheilagh Hunt
Ms. Sally Camus
Ms. May Lui
Councillor Sue Uteck
- ABSENT: Ms. Joan Hicks, Vice Chair (regrets)
Mr. Gary Russell (regrets)
Mr. Mohamed Yaffe
Ms. Adriane Abbott
- STAFF: Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture & Heritage
Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Development
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Camus that the minutes of November 7, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Public Art Policy - Draft Goals & Policy Framework (*verbal update*)

Using a PowerPoint Presentation, Mr. Andrew Whittemore and Ms. Holly Richardson reviewed the draft goals and policy framework of Public Art Policy and advised that they were seeking feedback from the Committee in regard to the themes and broader concepts.

Mr. Whittemore pointed out that the document was also going through an internal staff review, as it is important to ensure there was internal support for the policy before staff take it externally. He advised that, so far, there has been overwhelming support internally, and there was enthusiasm around how the policy aligns with the HRM By Design project.

Mr. Whittemore noted that, at this stage, the Policy is directional and the operational piece, with detailed guidelines will be brought back to the Committee separately.

Mr. Whittemore introduced to the Committee Ms. Mary Angela Munro advising that she was on a one-year secondment with the Cultural team. He noted that she has been with municipal government for the past 17 years and her background is mainly in programming. He also advised that Ms. Nicole May has been recently hired and she is a landscape architect from Vancouver who has done a lot of work in the area of public art.

Mr. Whittemore and Ms. Richardson reviewed their PowerPoint presentation and the following points were noted:

Public Art - Municipal:

C it was suggested that P2 was unclear and should be re-written.

- C P4 may need re-wording or perhaps split it into two policies.
- C the policy statements should not be written in passive language

At 3:26 p.m. Councillor Uteck entered the meeting.

- C it was suggested that P5 was an important statement and should be moved up in priority.
- C use phrases such as '*encouraging* artists' rather than 'allowing artists'
- C P9 - remove the words 'objectives' and 'opportunities' and make the policy statement stronger and clearer.

Public Art - Private:

- C there was general agreement that the language was too soft and the statements should be strengthened (e.g. the statement, "HRM will consider engaging the private sector" be revised to read: "HRM will engage . . . ")
- C P4 - revise to read, ". . . the art work should be provided to *install* onsite. "
- C suggestion that P6 may require further refining to clarify that the intent is for the developer to work with a professional artist.
- C suggestion to include a policy statement in regard to HRM engaging and creating partnerships with other levels of governments and universities.
- C change the term *education* to *public awareness*

Administration and Funding:

- C suggestion to put criteria in place which states that, if HRM accepts a donated piece, there is no guarantee it will be displayed in the requested location; it was further suggested that even prior to accepting a donation, the site should be determined.
- C it was noted that the issue of possibly moving a piece of art once it has been installed should be addressed in a policy statement.

Mr. Whittemore thanked the Committee for their feedback and advised that he will refine the document and bring it back for approval; and following this, staff will take it to Regional Council for recommendation to endorse the public consultation piece.

The Chair advised that if Committee members come up with additional comments, they can be forwarded to staff by e-mail.

5.2 National Portrait Gallery

Information regarding the Government of Canada creating the opportunity for a city to host the Portrait Gallery of Canada was submitted.

Referring to the submitted information the Chair explained that the Municipality or the Province are not permitted to make an application based on the terms of the process, and that it has to be a private developer. He asked if the Committee was interested in getting involved in terms of trying to find someone who wants to submit a bid.

A brief discussion ensued there was general agreement not to pursue this matter.

5.3 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair advised that Regional Council recently approved Councillor appointments for 2008 to its Boards, Committees, and Commissions and that Councillor Steve Streach and Councillor Mary Wile have been appointed to the Cultural Advisory Committee, for a term to commence July 2008.

Councillor Younger indicated that his term as Chair on the Committee was ending and he felt that a committee member other than a Councillor should be Chair. He called for nominations of Chair.

Mr. Mandaville nominated Ms. Buchanan and Mr. Barker, but both declined.

A brief discussion ensued and Ms. Abbott's name was put forward as Chair. Councillor Younger, noting that she and Ms. Hicks had sent regrets for this meeting, advised that he would speak with both of them in this regard prior to the next meeting, and the Committee would deal with the election Chair and Vice Chair at its January meeting.

6. **ADDED ITEMS** - None

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Chair noted that the regular January meeting would fall on the first day after the Christmas and New Year's holidays and questioned if the Committee wanted to moved the meeting to the following week. After a brief discussion, **there was general consensus that next meeting would be January 9, 2008.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment Mr. Whitemore noted that this was Ms. Richardson's last meeting for a year, as she was taking a year's leave of absence. He expressed his appreciation to her for her hard work and wished her well during her time off.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant

The following item was submitted for information:

- C Annual Report to Council on Status of Cultural Plan (November 20, 2007 Regional Council)