

NOTES
SPECIAL GRANT INTERVIEW MEETING OF THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, 2010-DEC-07, COMMENCING AT 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Eveline O'Rourke, Chair

Members: Commissioner Diana Johnstone (to 5:38 p.m.)
Commissioner Shirley Lance
Commissioner Fred Pattje
Commissioner Lynda Avis (at 4:07 p.m.)
Ms. Joanne Husband
Ms. George McGladrey
Ms. Gerda Hofman
Mr. Simon Schachner
Ms. Julie Bevan

Staff: S. Samborski R. Tweed, recording
B. Kuhn

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Cultural Committee was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS: None.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING NOTES:

(a) Notes of the regular Cultural Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 2010-NOV-17, at 4:02 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex.

It was moved and seconded that the Meeting Notes be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. DELEGATIONS: No delegations.

6. COMMISSION REPORT: (Deferred to January 2011 meeting.)

Chair O'Rourke introduced Julie Bevan to the Committee.

7. GRANT INTERVIEWS:

a) The Beat of the Street - EVENTS

Presentation:

- Cathy Davis – Event Planning, Grant Coordinator and Treasurer; John Corbett – President; Tina Marchand – Vice President; and, Gail Collins – Secretary.
- Mandate: bringing the street to the community, and the community to the street.
- Partnered with Women's Resource Centre for fund raising.
- They seek sponsorship from local organizations, businesses, and individuals.
- Very inclusive of all community members.
- Lots of planning for children's activities this year.

Questions:

- How many attended in 2010? At least 100 musicians, minimum was 500 attendees.
- Food & Beverage – budget of \$500? Volunteers meals and beverages. Also need to have a celebration at end of event to recognize volunteers.
- Security? Do not plan to transport and remove on a daily basis – would like to have security in order to maintain equipment on site.
- Marketing and communication? Beat of the Street website, Facebook, Posters (a lot have been removed by vandals), looking into Shaw Cable spot, recognize they need more than what they have had in the past, and are looking at additional advertising.
- Have been talking to Gary Fjellgaard, have contacted Valdy via Facebook, have sent a letter to Ellen Degeneres, and have contacted Ferron. The Committee suggested that the group contact Tourism Nanaimo.
- Membership? Membership is \$10 and they currently have 13 paid members. Additionally there are 26 people that are quite involved and regarded as members.
- Budget – expenditures – running deficit budget next year? The group advised they still have \$1,371 from last year.
- Will be having fund raising events coming up. Will have silent auctions – they have been advised that they were exempt from the requirement of a Gaming Licence.
- What does the budgeting for recycling costs include? Charge for the bins and bags – placement and removal.
- Can the recycling costs be reduced? They will explore the possibility of approaching the community to remove at no charge.
- Fund raising projection – is the amount realistic? They feel certain that they will get the funds from the Credit Union.

b) Nanaimo Theatre Group - OPERATING

Presentation:

- Ron McAfee - President; and, Sheila Coultish - Vice-President.
- Community Theatre Company who present live theatre productions for family entertainment
- They do not pay staff; however, they sometimes pay professionals to provide workshops.
- Have tried to operate independently over the past number of years.
- No longer have gaming funds.
- One of the largest community theatre groups in the Province.
- Membership of approximately 200.
- Wish to maintain 5 shows annually - that will put them at a break even point.

Questions:

- If you are able to make the changes that you hope to make will that relieve the \$3,000 operating? They are looking at a new heating system; however, this is a long term proposition that will save them considerable money over the years.
- The Committee wished to address the “family theatre” label as they were aware that the group had put on a production with nudity.
- 2009-2010 decrease of \$25,000 in profits? They explained that they went from 5 shows to 4, and there had been an economic downturn in the Province resulting in less attendance.
- The Committee advised that Permissive Tax Exemptions are not considered as Grants and are treated separately from Grant money.
- Surplus from last year? From Gaming and many improvements needed that will eliminate that fund.
- Last year part of the difficulty – was it due to play choices? One play put on was called “Doubt” and while it made a lot of people very uncomfortable and did not draw local audiences, it did receive several provincial awards. This season is all comedies. Reviewing of material is still underway.

c) Celtic Performing Arts (Celtfest) - EVENTS

- NO SHOW.

d) British Columbia Boys Choir - OPERATING

Presentation:

- Margot Holmes - Executive Director.
- The British Columbia Boys Choir has been in operation for 43 years.
- Last fall the British Columbia Boys Choir funded and formed a Choir in Nanaimo as pilot project. The Nanaimo Choir consists of approximately 26 boys that, with the exception of one from Parksville, all come from Nanaimo.
- Last year they presented four shows in different schools; a Christmas Concert in downtown Nanaimo; and, a Spring Concert in Nanoose. This December the Nanaimo Choir will sing with the Vancouver Island Symphony.

Questions:

- How many of the boys are on bursary? Four boys at this time, they usually receive \$300 - \$400 in bursary funds, although they are generally not fully funded.
- Was there enthusiasm right from the start? Yes, it was overwhelming.
- Were any children turned away? The philosophy of the choir is that every boy can sing, some just take longer.

e) Nanaimo Musicians Association Society (Pygmy Ballroom) – EVENTS

Presentation:

- Cynthia Cormier – Organizer; Brian Stovell - VIU Music Department; Greg Bush - Instructor, VIU Music Department; and Bridgett Dayton - Secretary-Treasurer.
- A copy of the programme from the previous year was distributed.
- Tommy Banks was quoted as saying that music did not come up the Mississippi, it came across the Strait of Georgia.
- Historically, band music in Nanaimo began with the coal miners.
- It was named the Pygmy Ballroom because it was next to a Pygmy Golf Course, on Chapel Street in downtown Nanaimo.

- Over the years the group has played for all sorts of service clubs and at their installation events.
- The alumni list, which includes Diana Krall, Ingrid Jensen, Christine Jensen and Phil Dwyer, is pretty impressive.
- The level of students continues to rise with the degree granting status at VIU.
- Students play downtown in the evening in various venues – giving back to the community.
- In 1986 a number of the original dancers from the Pygmy Ballroom had a reunion which was covered by CBC. In 2009, this event was held again.

Questions:

- Last year your total expenses were over \$10,000. This year you are looking at \$20,000. What are you doing differently? They will be moving the celebration to Beban Park to accommodate a greater attendance.
- Is it expected that ticket revenue will not offset costs? In the event there are profits, they will be going back into student education.

8. STAFF REPORTS:

Staff provided a verbal report on the Cultural Awards Ceremony: The 2011-MAR-09 date will not work as Sandra Thompson is away. The Port Theatre is willing to donate the venue. Possible alternative dates are 2011-APR-15 or 2011-MAY-04. The photographer is available 2011-MAY-04. There is the possibility of combining two events to include Sandra Thompson's retirement from the Port Theatre with the Awards Ceremony. The Port Theatre would also like to make a presentation to Ms. Thompson. The other alternative is that the Port Theatre is willing to pay for her air flight back. The photographer is to confirm his schedule. The Ceremony is open to friends and families of the winners as well as the general public.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports): None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action)

- (a) Late application, received 2010-NOV-23, from the Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000 under the Arts, Cultural and Festival Events Grant program.

It was moved and seconded that the application not be accepted for this year and they be invited to apply for next year's grant process. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff to advise the Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society of the Committee's decision.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information) None.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION: None.

12. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS: None.

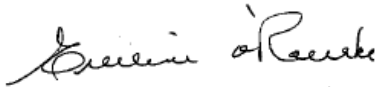
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

14. QUESTION PERIOD: No questions.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:57 p.m. that the meeting adjourn with the next Grant Interview meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2010-DEC-08, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.)

The motion carried unanimously.



Eveline O'Rourke, Chair
Cultural Committee

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



S. Samborski, Senior Manager
Recreation and Culture Services

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:



Richard Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture