

**NOTES OF THE SPECIAL GRANT REVIEW MEETING
OF THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, 2009-NOV-23, COMMENCING AT 4:00P.M.**

PRESENT: Eveline O'Rourke, Chair

Members: Commissioner Diana Johnstone
Commissioner Fred Pattje
Commissioner Lynda Avis
Ms. Joanne Husband
Ms. Jeorge McGladrey
Ms. Gerda Hofman
Mr. Simon Schachner

Absent: Ms. Lynne Fraser
Mr. Simon Schachner

Staff: S. Samborski Charmaine Kuziw, recording
B. Kuhn

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Grant Review Meeting of the Cultural Committee was called to order at 4:01 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.

5. GRANT REVIEW INTERVIEWS:

(a) Cultural Operating Grants:

(i) A Cappella Plus Choral Society – requested **\$5,000**

James Duthie & Val Duthie
Proven and in existence for some time – their 30th Anniversary is in 2010.
They have a paid Music Director and are trying to get younger members.

Question: BK - How many in audience database? *Close to 500.*

Question: BK - What would a typical concert attendance number be?
Approximately 150

Question: FP - How many ticket events are planned for next year? *1*

Question: FP - First time coming, why now? *Did apply a few years ago. Have always been fairly self sufficient. Fundraising is more difficult. We are aware that others have been recipients. Our organization has greater need because of the paid director position. \$9000/year.*

Question: DJ – Thank you from the community. DJ – Do you intend on having joint concerts? Yes.

Question: LA – Please explain occupancy costs? *Rental costs for Dover Bay.*

Question: LA – Is there any way to reduce that cost? *It has been attempted in houses but it is not satisfactory. Dover is quite reasonable.*

Question: LA – Is there anything that could increase that concert attendance? *Improved marketing. Currently it is word of mouth. The papers are not very helpful. All free advertising is taken advantage of.*

Question: JH – What do you charge for an adult? \$15

Question from the Society: When can we expect to hear the result? *Results will be available in January.*

- (ii) Chamber Orchestra – requested **\$7,080**

(Deferred to Thursday, 2009-NOV-26.)

- (iii) Conservatory of Music – requested **\$10,000**

Cathleen Darby, Executive Director

Conservatory has been 30 years in the community. May 2 2010 2pm is the next large event. The Conservatory has expanded to 400 students. The Conservatory is now focusing on the new building and having funds available for the maintenance and management of the building.

Question: EO – What are the upcoming plans? *Our objectives included in the plan. Page 3 There is possibility for building expansion but firm plans are not available. Plan will be to utilize space and renovate Studio 7. There are also possible plans to expand to other facilities within the City as well as to satellite into other communities.*

Question: FP – Please clarify the upgrade to technology. *Our Registration system is all paper based. There is an online registration system available that we would like to upgrade to and implement in September 2010.*

Question: FP – How many instructors? 35. *There are 5 instructors that don't always have students.*

Question: LA – If the satellite program goes, would you go to other communities to ask for assistance from them? *It would depend on the size of that satellite program. If it reached a good size, that would be likely choice.*

Question: FP – If not forthcoming, what would be cut? *Salaries, publicity, marketing budget.*

Question: DJ – You have had huge growth and anticipate further growth. A major renovation is likely. Any thoughts on how that will happen? *Our board has expanded significantly. They are very interested in achieving this. A leader will be needed to head up an expansion. It will be at least a year before this is investigated.*

Question: JM – Could you please expand on where the money from bursaries comes from? *Funds come from fundraising and BC gaming. Gaming is not a certainty for the future.*

(iv) Francophone Association – requested **\$10,000**

Nicole Langlois

Maple Sugar Festival. Funding was cut drastically by Provincial Government \$65K less than last year. It will show. Asking that the City would continue to support us. Entertainment budget went from \$75 down to \$25. More attendees. More demand and less capacity. The goal is to keep things at the same level. Fees for Beban Park have gone from \$69 to over \$1,000. Please keep this in mind. Over the years there has been good collaboration with City staff but now it is more difficult. The launch of the proclamation will be on December 8th at Martini Grill from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Plans for the festival will be disclosed then.

Question: FP – Entertainment budget being cut a lot will be lost. That will be three good bands. We will get the most we can for our money.

EO – Trying to preserve some money with the Art Gallery and the Dragon Boat Teams. They will be partnering for help in exchange for a donation to their causes. This is cheaper than employees. Saving a good amount of money.

(v) Nanaimo Concert Band – requested **\$8,000**

Sheri Barker & Lucy Bolton

The Band has been in existence since 1872. It is the oldest in BC if not Canada. One of the top bands in Canada. We participate in a lot of charity work and free to the public performances. Our money is made at a spring and fall concert. The Port Theatre reports that we are one of the only groups that bring in a full house. We do bring audience in from outside Nanaimo. We work with training and encouraging students and youth. We currently have a large waitlist for members to play with the band. We are seeking a permanent home and trying to raise money for a building.

Question: FP - How did you come to \$8000? *That is the cost for the events this year. Charity concert food drive. All costs are out-of-pocket. The costs have been increased and we need assistance. We would like to participate in competitions in Ladner and the National competition as well. Funds would assist.*

Question: EO – Have you considered raising the prices? *The band is here for the entire community. We don't want it to be for just those who can afford it.*

Question: LA – Can't something be done to find if the costs can be lowered that are being charged by the City? **Recommended to go to the Cultural Committee for the adjustment to fees.** This is the Band's first application.

- (vi) Theatre BC – requested **\$14,500**

(Withdrew.)

- (vii) Western Edge Theatre – requested **\$14,500**

Frank Moher

No presentation.

LA - Frank is stepping back. A replacement will hopefully be determined at the AGM on December 3.

Question: EO - Will there be a search done for your replacement? *The board will determine that. There is no money offered for a director.*

Question: EO – Will Caprice remain the venue? *Yes*

Question: JM - Will you personally continue to support Western Edge? *Yes, however, more than one person needs to be involved.*

(b) **Arts, Cultural and Festival Events Grants:**

- (i) Beat of the Street - requested **\$2,000**

Catherine Davis Vice President & James Cunningham, President

No presentation at this time. Letter from Real Estate Webmasters presented endorsing Beat of the Street. \$1500 donation offered and \$1500 domain address donation.

Question: FP – I attended last year, and had a feeling that the performers were not actually buskers. Am I incorrect? *Those who were not busking were part of Catherine's group (?) All others were buskers except for one was from Nanaimo.*

Question: JM – What other types of projects are you planning during the year? *We have a proposal now with the Port of Nanaimo for use of Port Authority property. Looking for assistance in making the Nanaimo busking experience a success next year with their assistance.*

Question: JM - Do you have regular meetings? *Yes, monthly.*

Question: FP – Looking at your estimated numbers, this is quite an increase. What are your plans? *Headline entertainment. We have international connections and are networking to have the international influence. We hope to have the Gogo family join in.*

Question: FP -These are not attendees. How do you think you are going to get the attendance that you have quoted? *Advertising is the way to make things happen. Advertise with the local buskers. Starting very soon to get the word out that it will be taking place.*

Comment: LA - We tend to fund people from our own community and you are planning on bring in international participants.

Comment: LA - Clarification of the non profit and List of Directors for this organization is requested for the next meeting.

Comment: EO - You are planning to do a lot of publicity but you have not expanded on how you are planning on marketing. *The website is very important.*

Question: BK – You plan to raise \$2K in fundraising, could you please explain? *We have spoken to the City about having a Tag Day (Info table set up), canvass the malls for Tag day, and Buskers Ball on Valentine's Day.*

Comment: DJ – Thank you and wish you success. It is a very viable project.

Comment: FP – Very glad to see you here tonight.

Staff clarified that organizations don't have to be non-profit status.

(ii) Celtic Performing Arts – requested **\$10,000**

Rene Cuson & Carolyn Cuson

Celtfest Vancouver Island Event

10th year. Canadian Celtic cultural event of the West Coast.

At VIU and Port Theatre in July 2010. Who comes to the event? Students from Vancouver Island, lower mainland and across Canada and international students. They come specifically to our event. Attendance is approximately 300 students. 1500 to 2000 viewers. Scholarship and bursary fund is supported. They make an effort to offer free performances to the community.

Question: JM – Are you registered at a company? *We are volunteers running under the structure of a company. This year we will become a registered society.*

Question: JM – Could you provide information on your Board of Directors? *(Information was handed out.)*

Question: JM – This is a school format; however, being a company are there licensing and liability issues? *We do have legal assistance and scrutinized before it is carried out.*

Question: EO – Do you hire instructors, and, are they on the contract basis? *Yes they are contracted and receive honorariums. The rest are volunteers.*

Question: JM – Have you applied for Provincial and Federal Grants? *No, we have not applied as of yet.*

Question: EO – Where is the school? *VIU and Port Theatre. Teaching space is at VIU.*

Question: BK – When do you expect to have your new society? *Before the next Celtfest.*

(iii) Francophone Association - requested **\$10,000**

See above under "Cultural Operating Grants".

(iv) Men's Resource Centre – requested **\$5,000**

Kim Howland

We would like to expand on "Father's Day in the Park". Kim introduced a poster for the 2009 event. We expanded last year to bring in a name act as well as partnering with students for volunteering. Our focus is celebrating fathers with a focus on music. We involved the community with the Fire Department, info booths for families and fathers. Event

photos shared. Come together as a community and celebrate at no cost. Expanding by bringing in a children's entertainer to encourage bringing out more families. Donations were down last year.

Question: LA – Could you clarify your expenditures? *Employees on contract. Only 2 full-time staff.*

Question: EO – Financials that United Way was not collected. Under the Family Crisis Support Program. Original grant was to come in 3 instalments. Through budget cuts they were not given full amount.

Question: FP - Have you broken even with the event every year? Yes, *for the past 8 yrs.*

- (v) Nanaimo Quilters Guild - requested **\$8,000**

(Deferred to Thursday, 2009-NOV-26.)

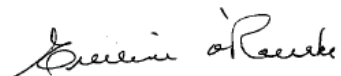
- (vi) Theatre BC - requested **\$4,800**

(Withdrew.)

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:19 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held Wednesday, 2009-NOV-26, commencing at 4:00 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