

NOTES OF THE SPECIAL GRANT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM  
ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-NOV-19 COMMENCING AT 4:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Ms. E. O'Rourke, Acting Chair

Members:

Commissioner D. Johnstone  
Commissioner L. Fraser  
Commissioner L. Avis  
Ms. E. O'Rourke  
Ms. M. Pettitt  
Ms. J. Husband  
Ms. J. McGladrey  
Mr. M. Harmes

Staff: B. Kuhn H. Richardson (Recording)  
S. Samborski

ABSENT: Commissioner S. Lance, Chair

1. CALL THE GRANT MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Grant Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Arts and Cultural Event Grant Review. 12 Arts and Cultural Event Fund applications were reviewed by staff, which resulted in the Aboriginal Students Council, Nanaimo Highland Dance Association and Nanaimo Musicians' Association requiring interviews.

i) Aboriginal Students Council. This Snuneymeux First Nations group is based at Vancouver Island University (VIU), but is a foundation that fundraises for the University, and as such, does not qualify for a grant.

Recommendation: That the Aboriginal Students Council not be considered for an Arts and Cultural Event Grant as it is are a fundraising foundation of VIU and does not qualify for a grant. The motion carried unanimously.

- ii) Nanaimo Highland Dance Association. This organization has been in operation in Nanaimo for 14 years. They have been in partnership with Parksville Highland Dance Association in the past to put on an annual highland dance competition. This year, Nanaimo will hold their competition on Sunday, 2008-FEB-03, at VIU Theatre, with Parksville holding a competition on Saturday. Competitors come from all over BC and the Northwest Territories and will use many amenities in the Nanaimo area. This application meets the criteria for an Arts and Cultural Event Grant.
- iii) Nanaimo Musicians' Association. An event celebrating the history of music in Nanaimo is planned for 2009-NOV-21 entitled "Pygmy Ballroom Big Band Jazz Celebration 2009", named after the Pygmy Ballroom, a jazz club from the '30s. It is the hope of the Nanaimo Musicians' Association to make this an annual event. Many great musicians have come from Nanaimo, and there is still much talent to be drawn from here. The organization is asking for \$5,000 and it is their vision to not have to ask for funds every year. The Nanaimo Musicians Association was once a registered society, and are thinking of becoming a society again. Although this group is not a society, they meet the criteria for an Arts and Cultural Event Grant.

Recommendation: That the Nanaimo Musicians' Association be considered for an Arts and Cultural Event Grant even though their organization is not a society. The motion carried unanimously.

A late application was received from the African Heritage Society on 2008-NOV-12, 11 days after the 2008-NOV-01 deadline. The Cultural Committee is not in support of granting funds to late applicants.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not recommend the African Heritage Society for an Arts and Cultural Event Grant because of the late nature of their application. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff will send a letter to the African Heritage Society setting out the date requirements for Arts and Cultural Event Grant applications.

Allocation of the Arts and Cultural Event Fund will take place when the interview process for all Cultural Grants is complete.

- (b) Cultural Operating Grants. – 20 Cultural Operating Grant applications were reviewed by Staff, which resulted in 11 organizations being invited for an interview by the Cultural Committee. Two Cultural Operating Grant applicants were interviewed at today's meeting:
  - i) Francophone Association of Nanaimo. The Francophone Association (AFN) have requested a Cultural Operating Grant of \$4,000 and an Arts and Cultural Event Fund Grant of \$10,000. These funds would assist in increasing cultural service to the City, and would assist in participation in Canada Day celebrations in 2009. With a view to the 2010 Olympics, the AFN would like to secure a promotional booth in Mallairdville for the 2010 Maple Sugar Festival. The AFN would like to work with Community Futures and the City of Nanaimo in bringing people to Nanaimo and set up

vacation packages to Nanaimo during the Olympics. Committee members felt that these funding requests should be reworked to more adequately reflect the funds needed for the operation of the Francophone Association and its operation and events. The Cultural Committee suggested that the Francophone Association change the amount of their funding request for the Arts and Cultural Event Grant to \$7,000, and the Cultural Operating Grant to \$7,000. The Francophone Association agreed in principle to this suggestion.

- ii) Crimson Coast. Since its establishment in 1998, Crimson Coast has produced over 200 events. Crimson Coast have applied for an \$18,000 Cultural Operating Grant and a \$3,500 Arts and Cultural Event Grant for the Body Talk Project. This project is youth based and consists of ten "Board of Directors". Workshops are held for youth and usually have 30 in attendance. The Operating Grant would assist in the support of creating local dancers and performing artists in Nanaimo.

Allocation of the Cultural Operating Fund will take place when the interview process for all Cultural Grants is complete.

The Cultural Committee is concerned that there is not enough funding for Arts and Cultural organizations. As Nanaimo's population is increasing, is per capita cultural funding staying in-line? Staff will investigate how much money has been requested by arts and cultural groups in the last three years versus how much money was available. A report will be prepared for the newly appointed Cultural Committee's review in the new year.

It was moved and seconded that the Staff Reports be received. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:00 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Grant Meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held on Thursday, 2008-DEC-04, at 4:00 p.m. at Bowen Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



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S. Lance, Chair  
Cultural Committee



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R. Harding, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Culture