

MINUTES
CULTURE AND HERITAGE GRANT APPEAL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, 2016-JAN-20 AT 1:00 PM
IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE SERVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)

PRESENT: Ms. Diana Johnstone, Chair
Ms. Wendy Pratt
Ms. Val Alcock-Carter
Mr. Bill Anderson
Ms. Sarah Pachowsky

GUESTS: Ms. Shalema Gantt, President, Nanaimo African Heritage Society
Ms. Shari Berry, Treasurer, Nanaimo African Heritage Society
Mr. Paul Winn, Board Member, Nanaimo African Heritage Society

STAFF: Suzanne Samborski, Director, Strategic Relations, Culture & Heritage
Chris Barfoot, Culture & Heritage Coordinator
Rebecca Buckler, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair D. Johnstone called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

2. NEW BUSINESS

**(a) Grant Appeal – Nanaimo African Heritage Society
2016 Culture & Heritage Project Grant.**

Presentation by Nanaimo African Heritage Society

Ms. Shalema Gantt (President of the Nanaimo African Heritage Society) attended the meeting to discuss her appeal, along with Shari Berry (Treasurer) and Paul Winn (Board Member).

The applicant felt the amount awarded was not valid and was unfair, based on the amounts awarded to other groups. The applicant felt the application was not given fair consideration.

The Nanaimo African Heritage Society had planned to host a three-day conference at the VICC that would have seen 400 to 500 delegates, include more educational components, invite special speakers, a higher calibre of performers, and organize workshops with other organizations (all incurring higher costs) in order to attract more attendees.

Based on the amount awarded, they are unable to organize a successful three-day conference and have resorted to their original programming (library reception, gospel conference, finale dinner) with the addition of more and higher caliber performers.

The total budget has now been adjusted to approx. \$28,650. Although they are back to the regular program, the appeal is based on prior year's budget with increased costs.

Discussion:

- The assessment criteria was outlined.
- The process for arriving at the amounts allocated (individual member review, sharing of amount, and an averaging of that amount) was outlined. The Committee noted that the amounts awarded to other organizations are based on the applications submitted, the information provided in their application, and how they meet the assessment criteria.
- The Committee noted that there is a difference in between what the applicant was asking for and what was in their appeal letter. The appeal letter states that *“extensive support material submitted with our application to host a 2016 premier cultural heritage conference titled “The Labyrinth Walk – Following the Footprints of our Afrocentric Pioneers” at the VICC was either misplaced or not even read/considered”*.
- The estimated growth is a conference format projection of 400 to 500 people in the first year. It was a confusing appeal as the program had changed to no longer include the conference.

It was moved and seconded that the information be received as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The delegations left the meeting at 2:10 pm.

3. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that:

That the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter* Section 90(1):

- (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity; and,
- (n) the consideration of whether a Council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2).

The motion carried unanimously. The Special “In Camera” meeting began at 2:12 pm.

It was moved and seconded that the Special “In Camera” meeting be adjourned at 2:42 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Rise and Report:

It was moved and seconded that the Committee:

1. direct Staff to notify the Nanaimo African Heritage Society the “In Camera” decision of the Committee regarding the Grant Appeal from the Nanaimo African Heritage Society 2016 Culture & Heritage Project Grant; and,
2. authorize release of the decision to the public.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Culture & Heritage Grant Appeal deny the Nanaimo African Heritage Society's appeal based on the Appeal Criteria, and recommend that the original amount of \$3,400 be put forward for Council approval. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned at 2:44 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY:



DIANA JOHNSTONE, CHAIR
CULTURE AND HERITAGE GRANT APPEAL COMMITTEE

CONCURRENCE BY:



SUZANNE SAMBORSKI
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC RELATIONS,
CULTURE & HERITAGE

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



CORPORATE OFFICER