Minutes of a meeting of the Culture Committee held in Committee Room #4, Regional Headquarters, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, June 9, 2008 commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillor Casselman (co-chair); Rosemary Hale (co-chair); David Alexander; Pamela Minns; Kathleen Powell; Rebecca Cann; Rick Bell; Marilyn Hardie; Susan Reid; Stephen Bedford; Jay Mitchell

Staff: Patrick Robson, Acting Commissioner, Planning Services; Renato Romanin, Senior Economic Development Officer; Terri Donia, Planner, Planning & Development; Steven Cosby (Co-op student) Karen Russell, Administration Assistant, Corporate Services

Guest: Joan Sumner, Academic Relations and Cultural Advisor Public Affairs, US Consulate General

Rosemary Hale introduced Joan Sumner, Academic Relations and Cultural Advisor Public Affairs, from the US Consulate General who joined the Culture Committee for today’s meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. Moved by Rebecca Cann
   Seconded by Marilyn Hardie
   That the agenda be approved as distributed. Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2008

2. Moved by Kathleen Powell
   Seconded by Rebecca Cann
   That the minutes of April 28, 2008 be approved. Carried.
BUSINESS ARISING

3. 2008 Smarter Niagara Summit Update

Patrick Robson gave a review of the Summit noting it furthered focus on the four pillars notion.

REPORTS

4. Working Groups

Cultural Asset Mapping (CAM)
Terri Donia noted that a letter will be sent out shortly to all organizations in the CAM database to request permission to use their information publicly. John Docker in the Planning & Development Department is providing GIS support moving forward with work on the database; there are close to 1,000 entries mapped.

Plan Working Group (PWG)
The RFP has been sent out; proposal deadline is June 10th. Terri is looking for a small group of members to review the proposals.

Heritage Sub Committee (HSC)
The Heritage Sub Committee notes from May 14th had been distributed previously for information. Items to note include a request to the Corporate Services Department and the Public Works Department for a list of Regional assets as well as dates which will help in determine if they could be deemed a historical significance.

Pamela Minns and Mark Shoalts spoke to the O’Reilly’s Bridge issue at the May 14th Planning & Public Works standing Committee meeting. The Committee itself had facts and figures as to why the bridge was being removed. There was some media coverage on the meeting as well as a letter to the editor. Councillor Casselman said it was an excellent presentation and that bringing this issue to light was very important and an educational exercise. She said that a motion was passed at the meeting concerning a review of the Region’s heritage policies.

The HSC is still investigating the idea of a canal showcase/symposium; a couple members of the sub committee will meet to discuss.

Moved by Stephen Bedford
Seconded by David Alexander

That the Heritage Sub Committee looks at the possibility of connecting with local municipalities to garner their support on heritage issues such as the Canal. Carried

1 member opposed
**Outside Initiatives**

**Project Niagara**
K. Cullen is putting together the feasibility study, if approved it will go to the Toronto Symphony Board and the National Arts Centre board for further approval before going to the Province.

Moved by Susan Reid  
Seconded by Marilyn Hardie

That as Co-Chairs of the Culture Committee, Councillor Casselman and Rosemary Hale remain involved in any Regional Project Niagara steering committees so that the Region’s Culture Committee continue to be a part of the forward movement of Project Niagara.

Carried.

**artsVest**
Terri Donia noted that the wrap up party will be held July 7th.

The Niagara Public Arts Project received proposals from artists; these have been delivered to the property owners for decision. Hope is to have decisions by June 18th; then the two will work together to move forward with the projects.

Terri Donia was congratulated for her great work with on this initiative.

**Bicentennial**
Rosemary Hale noted that most recent Legacy Council meeting was very productive. There are four sub committees working on different aspects of the project.

A Trillium grant has been received to assist with administrative support for the Bicentennial project.

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**CORRESPONDENCE / FOR INFORMATION**

5.
- “Ontario’s Business Community takes the $500K artsVest matching challenge and triples it!”
- “Heritage activist will be sorry to see O'Reilly’s Bridge go”
- “Call for Nominations: Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence”

6.  

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Kathleen Powell distributed flyers announcing the launch of the Niagara Falls’ Museum’s first 1812 celebration event being held November 15th
- David Alexander noted that The Vaughan Seed Co. building had burned to the ground over the weekend
- David also noted the IlluminAqua concert series on July 24th in Welland as part of Welland’s 150th Anniversary celebrations
- Welland has held it’s first Culture Committee meeting
- The Boundary Water Treaty Centennial ceremony will take place on June 13, 2009; a re-commitment ceremony between Canada and the U.S. taking place on the Peace Bridge.
ADJOURNMENT

7. Committee adjourned at 11:50 p.m. to meet again on Monday, July 21, 2008 at 10 a.m. in Committee Room #4, at Regional Headquarters.

Rosemary Hale
Chair

Karen Russell
Recording Secretary