Minutes of a meeting of the Culture Committee held in Committee Room #4, Regional Headquarters, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, April 28, 2008 commencing at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillor Casselman (co-chair); Rosemary Hale (co-chair); Lynette Fast; David Alexander; Pamela Minns; Kathleen Powell; Rebecca Cann

Staff: Patrick Robson, Director Community Integration, Planning & Development; Terri Donia, Planner, Planning & Development; Karen Russell, Administration Assistant, Corporate Services

Guest: Else Khoury, Manager, Corporate Records & Archives Services (Acting)

PRESENTATION

Else Khoury, Manager, Corporate Records & Archives Services (Acting) updated the members on the Archives Project. She noted that in her capacity at the Region she is also Chair of the Niagara Archives Collaboration Group. In 2006 a needs assessment was conducted for interested municipalities; Else noted it was a very collaborative effort. The report was published in 2007 and went to Regional Council where a feasibility study was approved. The RFP has been posted; a consultant will be chosen shortly with the hope to start the feasibility study within the next few months.

K. Powell noted that the Heritage Sub Committee would certainly like to be kept apprised of the status. K. Russell will add Else to the Heritage Sub Committee email group.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.

Moved by David Alexander
Seconded by Rebecca Cann

That the agenda be approved as distributed. Carried.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2008

2. Moved by Kathleen Powell
   Seconded by Lynette Fast

   That the minutes of March 17, 2008 be approved.  
   
   Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING

3. 
   Follow-Up - NiagaraPalooza

   D. Alexander gave the group a presentation on his thoughts following the
   NiagaraPalooza event earlier this month; how to keep the momentum and ideas
   flowing and moved forward.

   2008 Smarter Niagara Summit

   Patrick Robson noted the Smarter Niagara Summit will be held on May 8th and 9th; all
   members of the Culture Committee should have received an invitation. Updates on
   previous years Summits are included on the agenda; as well as an open discussion
   on the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre.

REPORTS

4. 
   Working Groups

   Community Outreach
   No report.

   Plan Working Group (PWG)
   A funding request application for the Arts & Heritage Sustainability Program has been
   submitted.

   The Terms of Reference for the RFP (to hire a consultant to work on the Niagara
   Culture Plan) have been forwarded to the Purchasing division of the Corporate
   Services Department.

   Heritage Sub Committee (HSC)
   The Heritage Sub Committee notes from April 9th had been distributed previously for
   information. Items to note include the receipt of additional information from the
   Region’s Transportation area concerning O’Reilly’s Bridge. The initiative is further
   along than previously thought. Terrie Donia had also received information saying the
   Consultant is reviewing how the bridge can be dismantled and saved to be moved
   elsewhere. Members noted that moving the bridge changes the history; it would no
   longer be part of history where it ends up…it’s historical significance is where it is.
Members noted there needs to be more education towards what it means to preserve heritage in the community. Pamela Minns and Mark Shoalts of the Heritage Sub Committee have volunteered to make a presentation at the May 14th Planning & Public Works Committee meeting. Public Works staff will be asked to give a status update on O’Reilly’s Bridge.

The HSC had also discussed the World Canals Conference at its meeting; members are willing to staff a booth/display at the conference, to be held in Kingston, also giving them the opportunity to take in some of the sessions and return with information for the rest of the group. P. Robson confirmed that financial resources are available for two attendees.

Moved by Kathleen Powell
Seconded by Pamela Minns

That the Heritage Sub Committee members work on a booth/display for the World Canals Conference to be held in Kingston in September; two members of the committee will attend with financial resources to be supplied by Niagara Region.

Carried.

Outside Initiatives

Project Niagara/Bicentennial
It was noted that a report concerning Project Niagara was sent directly to Council from the Public Works Department. A copy of that report and one on the Bicentennial will be forwarded to the committee members.

artsVest
Terri Donia noted that three public arts sites have been chosen; proposals from artists are expected by May 14th. She is looking for volunteers for the review panel.

A wrap up party will be held at the end of June.

CORRESPONDENCE / FOR INFORMATION

5.  
   - Hydro One funding for municipal projects (*attached to agenda package*)
   - “Navigating the Future of the Erie Canal” by Chuck Lyons

6.  
   
   OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Committee adjourned at 12:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, June 9, 2008 at 10 a.m. in Committee Room #4, at Regional Headquarters.