



# Cultural Services and Seniors Committee

## Minutes - March 13, 2008

GODERICH, ONTARIO



Goderich, Ontario  
March 13, 2008

The CULTURAL SERVICES AND SENIORS COMMITTEE met in the Auditorium of the Health and Library Complex, Clinton at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except Councillor N. Vincent, Board Members M. Menzies and P. Chisholm.

## **SENIORS AND MUSEUM**

### **1. Minutes**

**Moved by G. Robertson**

**Seconded by T. Collyer**

**That the minutes of the Seniors and Museum portion of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee meeting of February 14, 2008 be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

### **Councillor Issues**

Councillor J. Fergusson informed the committee that he attended the SEIU information picket held on March 12, 2008 at the homes. The staff organized the picket to encourage the province to increase the nursing fund to cover 3.5 hours of hands on nursing care, on average, for each resident. If successful, the funds that would come to the homes would be approximately \$2M and would help to remove reliance for health care funding from the tax base. The Homes Administrator commended staff for their efforts.

### **2. Report from the Homes for the Aged**

Barb Springall, Homes Administrator, presented the attached report (Appendix A) for the information of committee and Council. Debra Corrie, George Laird, and Becky Jervis were introduced to the committee and welcomed to their new positions at the homes.

The Homes Administrator requested that the committee hold the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at Huronlea in Brussels in order to conduct a dedication ceremony for the completed evacuation lane.

**Moved by J. Seili**

**Seconded by D. Kelly**

**That the April 10, 2008 meeting of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee be held at Huronlea in Brussels.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by J. Seili**

**Seconded by Warden J. Bezaire**

**That the report be received.**

**CARRIED**

### **3. Accounts for Homes for the Aged**

Accounts for February 2008 in the amount of \$176,957.60 were reviewed.

**Moved by D. Kelly**  
**Seconded by G. Robertson**  
**That the accounts be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **4. Report of the Museum Curator**

Pat Hamilton, Curator, presented the attached report (Appendix B) which includes statistics for the January reporting period for the information of committee and Council.

**Moved by D. Kelly**  
**Seconded by J. Seili**  
**That the report be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Huron County Cultural Plan**

The Director of Cultural Services, Beth Ross, presented the Huron County Cultural Plan at the Committee of the Whole February 19, 2008. The plan was received and forwarded to the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee for review and recommendations. Beth Ross, Director of Cultural services, presented the attached report (Appendix C) dated March 13, 2008.

The Director of Cultural Services reviewed how the County's plan came to fruition and stressed that the plan would be a working document to guide the activities of community organizations in a coordinated manner. Usually they are accepted and worked on as a "living document". It was clarified that the staff implement is not to increase the Cultural Services staff, but to hire a part-time contract coordinator, for one (1) year to coordinate the initial phases of the plan. The position would be employed by Heritage Culture Partnership, not the County of Huron.

Laurel Armstrong, Co-Chair of Heritage and Culture Partnership (HCP), was also in attendance to answer questions of the committee regarding the request. It was noted that HCP is made up of volunteers that are passionate in their efforts to promote and support culture in Huron County. The partnership evolved out of the Huron Tourism Association. In 2004 they prepared the application for a Cultural Capitals of Canada Grant of \$500,000 on behalf of the County. The grant was denied in part, because the County did not have a plan. The Planning and Development Department and the Cultural Services Department then agreed to develop the plan in partnership with HCP. The group will be reviewing opportunities to access federal funding to be a cultural capital in the future.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Councillor T. Collyer pointed out the action plans on pages 24 to 28 and commented that it would seem impossible for one person to accomplish. Ms. Armstrong stated that in a "perfect world" it is what could be done and is precisely why a coordinator is needed. She elaborated that the plan will have positive impacts on economic develop and tourism county-wide, as well as, enhancing the quality of life for County residents. The contract position would be an employee of HCP, monitored by the steering committee and utilizing existing resources "in-kind" from the County.

Councillor J. Seili wanted to ensure that County Council has an opportunity to evaluate the success of the plan before any commitment is made for 2009 or 2010. The Director of Cultural Services informed the committee that at the end of the first year a report can be made to Council

with the various partnerships and assured members that approving the plan and its recommendations does not bind Council into funding a permanent position to support cultural activities.

It is recommended that the Cultural Plan be supported and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for consideration of approval, and that the decision for a future County staff position be deferred pending the outcome of the pilot implementation phase of the Cultural Plan, the proposed corporate-wide service delivery review, and/or future priorities of Council.

It is further recommended that the Heritage and Culture Partnership's application for funding to begin pilot implementation of its commitments in the Cultural Plan (\$18,000 for one year) under the Huron Economic Development Matters (RED) program be supported, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for consideration of approval.

**Moved by Warden J. Bezaire**

**Seconded by J. Seili**

**That the recommendations be approved and further that an annual review of the program be completed and provided to County Council; and further that any future RED funding requests in 2009 or 2010, regardless of the amount, be sought through this committee as a request for increased funding.**

**CARRIED**

#### **6. Accounts for the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol**

Accounts for February 2008 in the amount of \$6,711.68 were reviewed.

**Moved by J. Seili**

**Seconded by T. Collyer**

**That the accounts be received.**

**CARRIED**

#### **LIBRARY BOARD**

#### **7. Minutes**

**Moved by G. Robertson**

**Seconded by D. Kelly**

**That the minutes of the Library Board portion of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee meeting of February 14, 2008 be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

#### **Board Member Issues**

#### **8. Library**

- a) Reports for Information/Updating Purposes

Beth Ross, County Librarian, and Sharon Cox, Deputy County Librarian, presented the attached report (Appendix D), which includes statistics for the relevant month.

b) Book Expenditure Report

Sharon Cox, Deputy County Librarian presented the Book Expenditure and Outstanding Book Order Report for the period ending February 2008 which showed total purchases to date of \$92,560 with outstanding orders totalling \$118,060; leaving the approximate amount in the uncommitted book budget of \$269,399.

**Moved by N. Fairles**  
**Seconded by C. Heath**  
**That the foregoing reports be received.**

**CARRIED**

**9. Accounts**

Accounts for February 2008 totalling \$45,249.98 were reviewed.

**Moved by C. Heath**  
**Seconded by E. Nichols**  
**That the accounts be received.**

**CARRIED**

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Brussels at Huronlea, Homes for the Aged. The Library Board portion will be held at 10:00 a.m.

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved by N. Fairles**  
**Seconded by G. Robertson**  
**That the Library Board Portion of the meeting adjourn at 10:18 a.m.**

**CARRIED**

The committee then reviewed the Huron County Cultural Plan.

**Moved by G. Robertson**  
**Seconded by T. Collyer**  
**That the meeting adjourn at 11:28 a.m.**

**CARRIED**

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Chair