



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held July 26, 2023, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

EP = Electronic Participation

Members Present: M. Alto (Chair); D. Cavens, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon, C. Smart

EP: S. Epp, K. Roessingh,

Staff: C. Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Service; A. Gibbs, Administrative Assistant (recorder)

Also present: J. Verano, Arts Advisory Council Chair

Regrets: P. Brent; C. Plant

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2 Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Smart
That the agenda be approved as published.**

CARRIED

Member Epp joined the meeting at 4:08 pm.

3 Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That the minutes of the June 28, 2023, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.**
CARRIED

4 Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto provided a summary of going to Langford City Council last week with C. Gilpin to pitch joining the Arts Service:

- She gave the introduction and closing remarks while C. Gilpin gave an excellent presentation, and that they were asked some interesting questions.
- They did not make a decision that night but asked for a staff report on the impact of joining and how that would reflect and coordinate with their strategic plan.
- Chair Alto concluded saying that this was positive and noted that they have a date set to present the Arts Service to Colwood in October as well.

On the Impact Report & Strategic Plan:

- Noted that these are two very important documents that set out a significant path forward, and that she was very pleased with them in general.

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- Reminded Commission Members that at the beginning of their work together in this term, one of the things they spoke about was the sense of being able to use the Commission to imagine paths forward toward a more proactive regional collaboration. She is very pleased with the two reports and does not feel the reports are preventing the continuation of those larger discussions.

5 Presentations/Delegations – None

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

6.1.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)

Welcomed A. Gibbs as Community Outreach Coordinator.

Noted that this report was supposed to happen in June, as a recap:

- Heard from Funding Chair of AAC Sue Donaldson, she presented results of project grant adjudication
- 22 applications, 20 were recommended for funding
- Grateful for the work that panel did in reviewing these applications
- Key discussions held to review possibility of allowing unsuccessful January project grant applicants to reapply in April

Gave kudos to Chair Alto and C. Gilpin on Langford meeting which she attended, noted it was a very well prepared and well received presentation.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes - June 13, 2023

Chair Alto noted the June 13, 2023 Arts Advisory Council minutes were received.

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council ABCs - June 13, 2023

Chair Alto noted the June 13, 2023 Arts Advisory Council ABC's were received.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

Announced annual Operating Grant intake is now open, and staff is currently speaking to new applicants and doing pre-eligibility checks. Guidelines are up on the website and the deadline for applications is September 14th.

Attended a meeting of arts groups who are interested in investigating the possibility of turning First Met United Church into a venue. A number of community arts groups that the Arts Service funds already use the Church as a venue or a rehearsal space. The congregation is leaving, and in the next few months the First Met Church will go to the Regional Council of the United Church, who would continue to manage and operate it. At the meeting they said that for at least the next year everything would continue to be 'status quo' which was a relief to all the organizations. The Victoria Symphony expressed that it would be interested in taking on the operation of the venue, and the Church expressed a lot of interest in that, as they would not like to operate it long term. They are exploring models similar to the Baumann Center, which is St. John the Divine operated by Pacific Opera. This is still in the early stage, and they have a lot of conversations to go.

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Introduced new Community Outreach Coordinator A. Gibbs and noted that as Heather Heywood is away on vacation, A. Gibbs would act as recording secretary.

6.3 CRD Arts and Culture: 2022 Impact Report

C. Gilpin provided an introduction and background on the Impact Report and noted that it used to be called the 'Progress Report' but was renamed to better reflects its purpose. Two main themes in the 2022 report were identified:

- Alignment of arts and culture funding to the goals of the current strategic plan
- The implementation of the EDI (equity, diversity & inclusion) lens across the granting and operations

MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse that staff distribute the CRD Arts & Culture: 2022 Impact report virtually through the CRD website & as physical copies to all councils and electoral directors in the capital region.

The Commission discussed the report, the scope of distribution, and the option to forward the report to the CRD Board at their next meeting.

MOVED by Member Smart, SECONDED by Member Lemon that the motion be amended to add to the motion, “and to the next regular meeting of the CRD Board.”

CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion.

MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse that staff distribute the CRD Arts & Culture: 2022 Impact report virtually through the CRD website & as physical copies to all councils and electoral directors in the capital region, and to the next regular meeting of the CRD Board.

CARRIED

6.4. Priorities for 2024-27 Strategic Plan

C. Gilpin provided an overview of the presentation:

- Update on Strategic Planning Process
- What We Heard Report Key Takeaways
- Review of Strategic Priorities
- 5 Priority Areas
- 10 Goals with Supporting Actions
- Next Steps

Chair Alto thanked C. Gilpin for the presentation, echoed the thanks he expressed to all those involved in the strategic planning and engagement processes, and suggested that a thanks to those involved should be included in report document itself.

Chair Alto requested the motion reflect the changes that were made to the goals and actions by including “as presented and amended.”

Chair Alto inquired as to whether it would be possible to project an estimate of what the budget requirements for the proposed 2024-27 strategic plan would be. C. Gilpin responded that staff will

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bring forward a budget and the service plan for 2024, and that there was an estimate of costs in the goals matrix. C. Gilpin outlined that the sequencing of implementing actions would allow the Commission to avoid frontloading the 2024 budget with expenses that are still being determined.

Member Smart noted that the arts sector may not be as well represented with youth, which may be a specific gap to address with these goals. Member Lajeunesse suggested that it might fit best in goal 1b. Chair Alto agreed and added that a focus on the promotion of arts careers could be added as a third bullet. Chair Alto concluded that there is agreement to reference to career opportunities in goal 1b, and that it will be left with staff to determine the language.

Member Cavens asked whether staff have done an assessment of their capacity to achieve these goals with the resources available. C. Gilpin responded that Appendix C does include a matrix looking at potential staff capacity and costs, and that staff feel it is feasible.

Member Lemon expressed thanks to staff for their work and being open to changes. Member Lajeunesse echoed thanks to staff and remarked that the goals outlined were of high quality.

MOVED by Member Lemon, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse that the strategic priorities, goals, and actions be approved as presented and amended to be included in the 2024-27 Strategic Plan for the Arts & Culture Support Service.

CARRIED

7. New Business

8. Correspondence - none

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:45 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER