



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the Arts Committee

Held Wednesday, February 16, 2011 in Meeting Room 107, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Present: Councilors V. Sanders (*Chair*), D. Screech (*Vice-Chair*), P. Copley, A. Dobb, M. Loveless, P. Madoff,
Staff: J. Lam, R. Sharma and G. Andrews (Recorder)
Regrets: Councilors B. McIldoon and M. Milne

Chair Sanders called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Agenda

IDEA Grant Funding Guidelines were added to the agenda under New Business.

MOVED by Councilor Loveless, **SECONDED** by Councilor Dobb, that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Minutes

MOVED by Councilor Dobb, **SECONDED** by Councilor Screech, that the Minutes of the January 12, 2011 Arts Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

MOVED by Councilor Screech, **SECONDED** by Councilor Dobb, that the draft Minutes of the January 4, 2011 Arts Advisory Council meeting be received.

CARRIED

3. Chair's Report

The Chair introduced and welcomed Mr. Raj Sharma, newly appointed Sr. Manager of Financial Services, to the Committee.

Increased awareness of the Arts Committee by local arts organizations was noted.

4. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report given

No report.

5. Alternative Funding Models for Regional Arts Service Participation

Councilor Dobb spoke to his January 10, 2011 memo. The issues conveyed therein related to the subsequent agenda item, the bylaw amendment changing participation levels in the Arts Service. Councilor Dobb's primary concerns were (1) the process to getting to a bylaw requiring full participation, and (2) the necessity for all municipalities to become full-funders.

Councilor Dobb spoke to travel costs, a topic highlighted in his memo which included a table of costs for round trip travel from each CRD municipality to the City of Victoria core. He felt that the high cost of travel from the outlying municipalities is possibly a deterrent to event attendance from residents of those areas.

He underlined the difficulties of getting every municipality on board, and thought that a bylaw amendment requiring group 1 participation may be a deterrent to new participation. He referred to a June 9, 2010 staff report that provided discussion points on the Strategic Priority to pursue full participation in the Arts Service from all municipalities and questioned whether the opportunity to consider alternate funding models had been fully explored.

During discussion, appreciation for Councilor Dobb's work and point of view was noted. Points raised included:

- 10 year conversion to full funding for the group 2 funders involved small annual incremental increases
- a ½ hour drive was thought to be reasonable
- there is responsibility to both municipal and regional interests
- support was expressed for the regional arts mandate
- a view that regional arts funding is similar in nature to regional housing, parks and libraries
- a need to affirm the overarching principals and goals of Regional Arts support
- members should be cognizant that some venues are funded only by the City of Victoria or receive tax incentives by Victoria.

Councilor Loveless left the meeting at 4:40.

Councilor Dobb felt that information regarding City of Victoria arts costs would be useful, as would further statistics and an analysis of how much might be lost if participation is lessened. He again requested further consideration by the committee before adopting the amending bylaw.

MOVED by Councilor Screech, **SECONDED** by Councilor Copley, that Councilor Dobb's memo re: "Alternative Funding Models for Regional Arts Service Participation" be received.

CARRIED

6. Amendment of Arts and Culture Support Service Establishment Bylaw

Mr. Lam spoke to his report noting the changes to be effected in the bylaw. He explained the CRD Board process of readings and the required two-thirds approval of the participating municipalities prior to adoption.

During discussion, members agreed that several absent members should be present for consideration of the bylaw. There was an expression of satisfaction of the process leading to the proposal that new group 2 members become full funders within 5 years while allowing existing group 2 members 10 years to achieve full funding.

Comments were heard in regards to being clear about the bylaw's objective, whether the goal is to have more funding or full participation, or whether differing levels of contribution could be reflected in a changed voting structure. Staff was requested to circulate the June 9, 2010 staff report with the next agenda. It was then,

MOVED by Councilor Copley, **SECONDED** by Councilor Madoff, that consideration of bylaw #3765 be tabled to the next meeting.

CARRIED

7. Strategic Initiatives: Policy Review of Criteria for Eligibility

MOVED by Councilor Copley, **SECONDED** by Councilor Screech, that the Report be received and that the Strategic Plan review take place at the next meeting.

CARRIED

8. Correspondence

MOVED by Councilor Copley, **SECONDED** by Councilor Screech, that the correspondence from *Victoria International Improv Festival*, *Civic Orchestra of Victoria*, *Theatre SKAM*, *Intrepid Theatre*, *CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers*, and *Victoria Symphony*, be received.

CARRIED

9. New Business

a. Guidelines for IDEA Grants

In response to a question, Mr. Lam noted that the guidelines for IDEA grants can be modified from those adopted at December 2010 meeting if experience shows this to be advisable. He also noted that the guidelines are broadly stated with the intent of capturing a wide range of organizations whose primary mandate is not arts but which are producing arts related programming of regional impact. He stated that a log is kept of organizations that make inquiries about Arts Development programs.

MOVED by Councilor Copley, **SECONDED** by Councilor Madoff that the Committee review the IDEA grant guidelines following the first round of intakes.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

The next regular meeting is to be held Wednesday, March 9, 2010.

Chair