



Meeting Minutes Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

11:30 AM

Room 651
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Directors: C. Plant (Chair), D. Screech (Vice-Chair), M. Alto (EP, for L. Helps), G. Holman (EP), J. Loveday (EP), C. McNeil-Smith (EP), R. Mersereau (EP), K. Murdoch (EP), K. Williams (EP)

Staff: N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer; R. Lachance, Snr. Manager, Financial Services; J. Lam, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; N. More, Snr. Administrative Secretary (Recorder)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: R. Martin, N. Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Plant provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Williams,
That the agenda for the March 3, 2021, Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Minutes of the January 13, 2021, Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee meeting

**MOVED by Director Williams, SECONDED by Director Screech,
That the minutes of the Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee meeting of January 13, 2021 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED**

4. Report of the Chair

Chair Plant remarked on the work of bringing the matter of item 6.1 before the Committee and the Board.

5. Presentations/Delegations

- 5.1 Delegation – Doug Jarvis; Representing ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.: Implementation and Implications of the Consultant’s Recommendations from Stage One: A Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities in the CRD

Doug Jarvis spoke in favour of Item 6.1.

- 5.2. Delegation – Matthew White; Representing Victoria Symphony Society: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.: Implementation and Implications of the Consultant’s Recommendations from Stage One: A Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities in the CRD

Matthew White spoke in favour of Item 6.1.

- 5.3. Delegation – Jacques Lemay; Representing Pacific Opera Victoria: Re: Agenda Item 6.1.: Implementation and Implications of the Consultant’s Recommendations from Stage One: A Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities in the CRD

Jacques Lemay spoke in favour of Item 6.1

6. Committee Business

- 6.1. **Implementation and Implications of the Consultant’s Recommendations from Stage One: A Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities in the CRD**

N. Chan introduced staff members R. Lachance and J. Lam. J. Lam provided highlights of the report. Chair Plant called for questions from the Committee. Staff provided clarification on the following topics:

- The addition to the budget would be for the work of scoping a regional arts facilities service and partially funding the service establishment process (depending on the approval process), from draft bylaw to seeking elector and ministerial approval.
- The 2021 financial plan would be brought to the Board on March 24, at which time changes in scope from the provisional budget approved in October 2020 can be evaluated, including the proposed budget for this work.

R. Murdoch left the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

- If a sub-regional approach was favoured, expanding participation in an existing sub-regional arts facility service i.e. the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse services is an option; however, further examination of the feasibility of this option would be necessary.

C. McNeil-Smith left the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

- Some of the work that would go into the service establishment process revolves around identifying the service scope, defining how and why to participate, to what extent existing facilities could be subsumed within a regional service, and identifying funding and governance models.

- The strengths of a regional service would include leverage in competing for federal and provincial funding for capital development
- The first alternative would give staff direction to proceed with the regional service establishment approach; the second alternative would give support to approach the non-participating jurisdictions with a value proposal to join the existing services.
- The timeline for an approval process is dependent on decisions related to service scope, and staff resources, as eight other AAPs are being processed in 2021.
- The recommended budget of \$150,000 is a placeholder; a rough estimate if it were to proceed. The required level of funding would be levied on all jurisdictions based on converted assessments.
- The definition of the performing arts facilities with regional impact compared with those considered local would need to be defined in the investigation, as well as the potential involvement of independently owned venues.
- Legislative Services would help determine the appropriate approval method.

Discussion on the recommendation, as moved, included the following points:

- There is momentum for this action. The money amount is not huge. It will be an interesting though not easy process. The goals are worth pursuing.
- This needs to be considered for the future of the region; it will be good to deal with the issues that come up in the process. Now is the time to start planning.
- If a regional service gets approved, all jurisdictions would be obliged to participate, even if a particular one did not want it.
- There are other priorities for the region where increased resources could be put instead, such as climate change mitigation, affordable housing, and regional parks.
- Geographically, some can find it difficult to attend these regionally significant facilities; so support for the arts may be strong, but there are concerns around equity.
- The arts are a necessary ingredient for a vibrant region and need public support to be sustainable. Benefits exceed the outlying contribution.
- Implementation uncertainties might cause hesitation in pursuing the overall goal.
- As for the sub-regional alternative, it's clear that there are not sufficient participants, leading to a lack of regional influence. A different service than those currently existing is needed.
- A regional process for evaluating and planning is essential. Diversity within the region can be served with a collective plan; the CRD is in a position to do this.
- Significant engagement with partners within the region will be needed, detailing what the service implementation would be, and what regional needs will be met.
- This is a critical first step in supporting arts facilities in the region. In addition, the arts and culture sector is one of the most impacted by COVID-19 and the economic downturn. It's important to step up and support regional facilities.
- Wide community input was obtained by the consultant.
- This is the route forward; all jurisdictions have volunteers and users of arts facilities.
- What was in place has been a unique model that needs updating; put money toward examining what that service would be like.

Chair Plant called the question on the motion:

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Williams,
The Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee recommends to the Capital Regional
District Board:**

- 1. That staff be directed to include \$150,000 in the 2021 final budget; and**
- 2. That staff be directed to begin the process of establishing a regional service for the purposes of planning, developing and funding of performing arts facilities that have regional impact, per Recommendation 1 of the CRD Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee report Stage One: A Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities in the CRD.**

CARRIED

Opposed: Holman

Chair Plant remarked that The Select Committee's mandate ends with its final recommendation to the Board, and it will have no further business. Going forward, if the matter is approved by the Board, a new Committee would likely be struck to oversee the process. He thanked all involved in the work of the Select Committee.

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Director Screech SECONDED by Director Williams,
That the March 3, 2021, Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee meeting be
adjourned at 12:29 p.m.**

CARRIED

Chair

Recorder