



**ArtsHalifax Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 22, 2017**

Present: Jeremy Banks, Chair
Peggy Walt
Dustin Harvey
Kate Watson
Claire Hodge

Staff: Shari Dillman, Administrative Support, Culture & Events
Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer, Culture & Events
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture & Events

Regrets: Alex Meade
Pamela Lovelace
Kim Cain

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm and the Committee adjourned at 4:58pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm at the Halifax Regional Municipality – Dartmouth Ferry Terminal, 88 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

The Chair welcomed members of the Committee and staff in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 6, 2017

Grammar and spelling errors were noted for correction.

MOVED by Kate Watson, seconded by Peggy Walt

THAT the minutes of June 6, 2017 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITONS AND DELETIONS

Committee entirety approved agenda with no additions or deletions.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Action items from June 6, 2017 meeting:

ACTION: Staff to update the Committee List on the webpage. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: Staff to send contact list to chair. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: Staff will contact peer review group to obtain a more formal report of their responses to provide to the Committee. **COMPLETED**

Staff expects formal report submission at ArtsHalifax Committee September / October meeting.

ACTION: Committee to submit recommendation report by September 15th, 2017. **ONGOING**

ACTION: The Chair to consider submitting request to present at Creative City Summit. Elizabeth Taylor is Chair of 2017 CCNC Summit. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: Staff to send Committee information on the upcoming Creative City Network of Canada Summit October 18-20, 2017. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: Staff to enquire with Corporate Communications if we can highlight some Committee achievements over past two years on the Halifax website. **COMPLETED**

Office of the Municipal Clerk can post reports, agenda, minutes on the website. Corporate Communications do not need to be consulted to post such items.

ACTION: For next meeting, Committee members were asked to come prepared to brainstorm on primary, secondary and tertiary recommendations, discuss structure of committee, what priorities are, budget, and over sight responsibility of this Committee. **ONGOING**

ACTION: Staff to book boardrooms for ArtsHalifax Committee that seats 10 and is equipped with a white board for brainstorming activities. **COMPLETED**

5. SHARING OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS

Sherryll Murphy introduced herself and advised The Office of the Municipal Clerks can post Committee agendas on the website and minutes after they have been approved. Sherryll stated she was present as an observer and offered her assistance if needed.

Staff advised going forward, having agenda and meeting minutes posted on the website, following the Clerks' Office formatting adds a layer of transparency and formality to the Committee.

ACTION: Committee to advise staff the documentation they would like posted on the website.

To increase awareness of the ArtsHalifax Committee's accomplishments and future goals, staff suggested the Chair contact the Clerk for the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED) to request giving a presentation.

The Chair advised an opportunity to present to CPED was requested in the past and no response was received. Staff suggested to re-offer presentation to CPED and specifically include Sherryll Murphy in the communication request.

ACTION: Chair to submit request to the Office of the Municipal Clerks to present to CPED on ArtsHalifax.

3:30pm Committee began discussing structure of ArtsHalifax successor committee.

Committee discussed "arms length" structure as a possibility. Committee want all reports to go directly to the CAO for review.

Committee read from SACAC report (Attachment 1) where the Committee's report to staff in 2013 stated the "arms length" structure is the most effective way to achieve HRM's goal in the arts sector, ensuring transparency in decision making, while facilitating stronger relationships between Council, staff and the Committee.

Committee stated the peer jury decisions should not be tampered with by staff or Council.

Chair suggested structure whereby the CAO approves a grant in one lump sum, and future Committee will decide where to spend the allocated funding. Staff advised that is not the normal practice however, it can be reviewed.

Committee suggested an "arms length" structure citing the Halifax Public Libraries model for comparison. Staff advised this would require setting up a new body, separate from HRM. This structure would require input from HRM Legal Services

Currently, the process that the Committee is following, all reports go to CPED through staff.

Committee wants to by-pass staff and Council and have their original reports go directly to CAO for review without staff input. Committee suggested legally setting up a not-for-profit organization to achieve this “arms length” agency model.

Committee suggested current model the Province of NS uses allows staff the ability to apply for secondment to pursue full time Committee positions. Staff advised HRM only authorizes a three month secondment and that is with the United Way. A full year(s) secondment more than likely would not be approved.

Committee stated word “Committee” is terminology that can be changed, may choose “Board”.

Committee stated they had reservations and challenges with the current HRM structure regarding the report process. They suggested it would be more logical to have staff write a draft report and then the Committee would review and edit and then submit back to staff. Staff advised they work under the current HRM protocol on report submissions which does not allow staff to write a report for a committee in advance of the approval process. Committee questioned if it is possible to submit a draft model and submit to staff to receive feedback on, prior to final submissions to Council. Staff advised that does not fit into the current HRM process. Committee advised they need support in bureaucratic process. Committee requested staff outline the principles and point Committee in the right direction to which staff advised they have and will continue to guide and offer advice on the relevant HRM process.

The Committee stated it is staff’s responsibility to bring the best advice to the Committee to review and then determine the way in which their recommendations can work within municipal process.

Staff will discuss Committee’s needs with Clerk’s office and perhaps there is a different model and way to move forward that has not yet been considered.

Committee stated they need trust around the table. Committee would like staff to listen and assist when asked.

6. CONNECTING IDEAS WITH POSSIBILITY

Summarizing different structures discussed.

Model 1 – a stand alone, not-for-profit Committee/Board/Agency where Council approves one lump sum grant to Committee. This body would be responsible for operating costs i.e. staff, office space, administration assistance and decisions on funding programs, grant allocations.

Model 2 – Using municipal resources i.e. staff, and maintaining funding within the municipal budget the model would have the Agency submit reports outlining their deliverables directly to CAO but not to CPED or staff.

Committee suggested their goal is to provide more of the funding directly to the arts community, having to pay for operating costs would dilute the funding. Staff suggested the Committee engage Councillors when concrete structure of Committee has been determined. The Deputy Clerk stated that the committee *HRM By Design* can approve how funding is spent under specific legislation. Committee would like to explore how to emulate same structure.

Staff suggested to be conscious of how the structure will work and define how the funding will be allocated.

The Committee discussed their recommendations broadly such as increased funding, the compensation of peer jury volunteers. Committee stated they need to find a working model for this group that everyone will appreciate.

ACTION: Committee members bring one wish list item that you would like to see the Committee to achieve.

7. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, July 20, 2017, 3-5pm, Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Boardroom, 88 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Shari Dillman
Administrative Support, Culture Events