



Cultural Round Table

County Culture: It's more than you think!

Cultural Round Table
Shire Hall, Picton
July 8th– 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm

Present:

Jean Anne Carroll – County of Prince Edward, EDO, Judith Zelmanovits - Museum Advisory Committee, Jeff Keary – Art House Gallery (Rednersville Church), Sharon Jarvis - General Manager, Regent Theatre, Ian Balsillie - Prince Edward Round Table on Environment and Economy, Myrna Mather – Arts Council, Monica Alyea - Councilor, South Marysburgh, Wendy Lane – Manager, Recreation and Culture, Victoria Leskie – County Clerk, Peta Hall - Potter

Minutes:

1. **Community Events Planning** – Sharon – Much progress has been made on the events calendar. It is in hard copy format right now in a binder and being managed by the Regent's Summer Intern. There are lots of questions about how it would work if displayed on a wall – would people be able to write directly on to it, what are the criteria for inclusion etc. Regent is writing a grant application for a marketing resource. If successful that person may be able to work on maintenance of the calendar moving forward.
2. **Status of Committee** – Victoria Leskie, the Clerk, came to discuss with us what it would mean to be a committee of council. Being a committee of council involves having formal terms of reference adopted by council, membership would be capped at "x" number and then those members would be appointed by council. A quorum of 5 would have to be in attendance to hold a meeting. Procedures would have to be formal - minutes would have to be business only (motion put forward, passed etc) and could not contain any details of discussion, and would have to be received by council. Advisory committees exist for the Museums and Heritage. Council will request advice from an advisory committee if a question comes up as an order of business that they need an expert opinion on.
3. **How to communicate more effectively with Council** – It was discussed that we could in our Annual Report to Council look at overall goals and attach budget recommendations to them. Timing for this would need to tie into the budget process timing. Distribute the minutes directly to Council.
4. **What is the current municipal contribution to Culture?** As a starting point it would be interesting to determine what is in fact contributed from the tax base to Cultural Facilities and Activity. We could make a request to Council for this information – staff would need to generate it through a staff report. We should think further about what a financial ask of Council would be. Other municipalities apply 1% or 2% of tax base revenues to Culture. We would need to be careful to check what this is in the PEC context – often when you remove what is contributed as a matter of course to staff and facilities what is left over for additional activity within the community is not substantial.
5. **Grant Program** – There used to be a municipal granting program that was cancelled by Council due to budget concerns. This program was very workable and provided a fair, transparent and time specific way that requests could be made of Council. Despite the fact

that there were no grant monies committed to by Council, there were many financial requests made to Council this year. As there was no formal process or venue for these requests to be made, many of them got routed through Recreation, Parks and Culture. This was because many of the requests included requests for in-kind contribution of municipal spaces, so any additional asks were made at the same time. This proved confusing in some cases for council (why are these requests coming through RPC etc). When Council decided who to award funds to it was very much felt that cultural groups were not represented in the awardees. It was noted that some cultural activity gets funded through the Ward Recreation Committees – eg the Music Festival requests funding through the County Recreation Advisory Committee every year. Should a grant program come back into place then we should consider asking that set amount of monies be specifically allocated against arts and culture. It was suggested that it would be helpful to revisit the Municipalities strategic plan and Vision 2009 and review how culture is included. Another disadvantage of awarding monies “ad hoc” is that there is little accountability for how the funds are spent – i.e. no reporting is required to show that the monies were spent as intended. Municipal Staff and Monica to discuss further internally with Susan Turnbull.

6. **How does this work elsewhere?** The United Way model was given as an example of how one front end group benefits many different charities. There is strength in presenting a united front and business case as opposed to fragmented groups making requests. Models were also cited from Hamilton and Peterborough. Hamilton has one stream that funds its 3 core cultural activities – including the Symphony. They have a second stream that contributes to other cultural activity. Peterborough also has a 2 stream system that contributes to core activity and then an optional layer. All municipalities are very different and handle this type of budgeting differently.
7. **What role can CRT play in this process?** Firstly advocate that the grant process is there and available to the community. Secondly provide mentorship and guidance to help the community formulate their requests thoroughly and clearly – ie that they are ready for the municipal or other grant processes. An example was given that recently a community member approached many different orgs about starting an opera festival. It seemed like help was needed to formulate what the event would look like etc. which none of the orgs approached felt was in our mandate.. the idea needed to be ready for review and evaluation by the time it got to us in order for us to see if there was a fit or not. The key thing here is that any request that is put forward be presented in a way that makes it as easy as possible for staff and council to say yes.
8. **Local Music at the Regent** – Sharon mentioned that the Regent is considering making special arrangements with local musicians for use of their space. They are prepared to try it and see how it works out.