

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 26, 2020

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held virtually on August 26, 2020 from 12:00 12:08p.m. to 1:22 p.m.

PRESENT: Debbie Ballard - Chair, Robert Schulz, Mary Hickling, Caren Fagerdahl, J. McTaggart, Councillor

ALSO PRESENT: Beverley Cochrane, Museum Curator, Aaron Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER - 12:08

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest and the General Nature Thereof:

3. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes

3.1 February 26, 2020 - Approved as presented

- Aaron Bisson provided an update that the Rural Economic Development (RED Program) Grand Application submitted by Sherry George did not receive funding. This was an application for Owandem berth and Hallet upgrades. Funding opportunities will continue to be sought.

4. Governance:

4.1 Museum Advisory Committee Term ends November 2020. Lisa Slomke will post the notice in the Fort Frances Times.

5. Finance:

- 5.1 Community Museum Operating Grant/Pay Equity 2020-21 Completed.
- Letter dated July 10, 2020; Grant approved. Expedited process for 2020-2021 due to COVID-19. - \$21,519 EFT received on July 15, 2020.
- 5.2 COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Heritage Organizations
- Application submitted; funding requested totals \$28,858, based on 2019 expenditures. Deadline - September 1, 2020

6. Collections:

- 6.1 Acquisitions. The Museum Curator has accepted two donations during this pandemic;
- Lil Amik costume and a Mending Machine that was used in St. Marguerite's Residential School.
- 6.2 Veteran's of Treaty Three Exhibit still on loan to Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre; artifacts were due to be returned
- 6.3 OWANDEM Update: Owandem moved from M. Faragher's to the Town Public Works yard.

7. Exhibitions:

- 7.1 Canada: Day One Exhibit closed early due to COVID-19. Shipped back to Ottawa in April 2020

7.2 "CLIMATE CHANGE: Perils of Plastics" Exhibit curated by Sherry George. Planned for exhibition from April to June 2020. Museum closed since March 16, 2020,

7.3 Upcoming Exhibits:

- Veterans of Treaty #3 - October - November 2020
- Nindinawemaaganag: My Relations - December to February 2021
- Art by Tony Cepers - March - April 2021
- Nations and Voices - May - June 2021

8. Interpretation & Education:

8.1 Bev participated in a video in partnership with Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre as part of the Indigenous Workshop Series and their "Ozichigan Workshops" about harvesting birch bark.

9. Research:

9.1 Numerous research requests via telephone, email and Facebook have come in.

10. Physical Plant:

10.1 Plumbing - Recurring issues with pipes clogging; plumbers contracted to remove old pipe and install new bypass pipe.

10.2 Alarm Sensor - Alarm panel still requires repair. Faulty sensor in storage area since August 2019.

- Aaron Bisson to look for three quotes for replacement/ upgrades; however, this was not budgeted for this year.

10.3 COVID-19 Re-Opening Plan. Curator drafted Opening Plan but not ready for distribution. Main concerns are the aging infrastructure of Museum; air exchange quality and lack of natural lighting.

11. Community:

11.1 Friends of the Museum Initiatives

- SnOasis 8 - March 7, 2020. Approximately 325 attendees
- Garden Tour - July 4, 2020. Worked with NWHU/ OPP to ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions.
- Purchased and planted garden in front of Museum
- Annual Gala will likely be cancelled this year.
- Owandem project nominated for "Governor General's Award."
- Christmas Home Tour is also being planned
- Potential of an Online Auction fundraiser in lieu of Gala.

11.2 Rainy Lake Square

- Market Thursday has been using washroom in front foyer since May 7, 2020.

12. Human Resources / Professional Development:

12.1 Curator Sherry George retired on April 30, 2020. Beverley Cochrane fills position as Curator effective May 4, 2020.

12.2 Young Canada Works 2020 funding approved for \$4,076.00. No students hired. The Young Canada Works program allows projects to transition from full-time summer jobs or internships to part-time or full-time positions over the fall and winter. May be able to

stack funding from COVID-19 Emergency relief fund to cover our portion of position.

- 12.3 Canada Summer Jobs/ Summer Experience Program positions also approved. However, due to not being able to hire students, funding was reallocated.

13. Numbers:

- 13.1 February 2020: 267 (Feb. 2019: 234)
March 2020: 438 (March 2019: 501)
April 2020: 32 (April 2019: 331)
May 2020: 71 (May 2019: 439)
June 2020: 18 (June 2019: 732)
July 2020: 96 (July 2019: 904)

14. Strategic Plan:

- 14.1 The most recent plan ends 2020. Review and updates required.

15. Recommendations to be made to the Executive Committee of Community Services...

16. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE

- 16.1 September 23, 2020 12 Noon via Zoom

D. Ballard, Chair

B. Cochrane, Museum Curator