

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

May 29, 2019

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on May 29, 2019 from 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Debbie Ballard - Chair, Robert Schulz, Mary Hickling, Nell Laur, John McTaggart - Councillor

ALSO PRESENT: Sherry George, Jason Kabel, Com Serv Mgr; Lisa Slomke, Town Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

3. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes

3.1 Meeting Date: Wed Apr 24; Adopted as sent.

4. Governance:

4.1 Code of Conduct- new legislation - Lisa Slomke, town clerk presented information, leaving pkgs for all.

4.2 CMOG due June 30, 2019. Up-to-date strat plan required.

4.3 Museum policies need to be reviewed. 1-2 per month. Sherry will send in advance of meeting.

5. Finance:

5.1 Have been approved for a grant for \$14,900 from Heritage Canada for assistance with the Franklin exhibit. Announcement will be made publicly at the museum on Fri June 7, 10:30 a.m., Don Rusnak presenting.

5.2 Review 2019 budget.

5.3 Have received 3 student grants: YCW \$4300, CSJ \$1960, Summer Experience \$3658. Total \$9818.

6. Collections:

6.1 Nell continues to make small inroads in accessioning backlog.

6.2 Funding for Owandem berth did not make capital budget cut. Will be on hold until budget talks in the fall.

7. Exhibitions:

7.1 Opening for Taking Back Our Natural World, climate change exhibit on Apr 24, poorly attended.

7.2 Echoes in the Ice: Finding Franklin's Ship arrives June 24. Soft opening June 29. Grand opening July 3.

- 7.3 With funding in place for Franklin exhibit, may look at using donation money to upgrade permanent exhibit space with some new cabinets and mock offices/stores (camera shop, office, fur post). Jason mentioned that Stan Blasky builds cabinets locally.

8. Interpretation & Education:

- 8.1 Climate change workshops scheduled: June 4, 6:30 p.m. Peter Kirby, composting; June 5 (2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.): IISD, impact of climate change on area lakes and fishing. No charge.
- 8.2 Schools starting to book classroom visits. Franklin exhibit arrives too late, however will send flyers to school in advance of Sept start.
- 8.3 Sherry, Kayleigh Speirs (KNCWN) and Laura Gosse invited to present at Ontario Museums Association conference in Brantford on Oct 24. Topic is networking; we will be speaking on our networking experience with local indigenous communities (residential schools and Treaty 3 veterans exhibits, plus indigenous workshops).

9. Research:

10. Conservation:

- 10.1 Jeremy Hughes is looking into better ways of backing up digital newspapers and museum archives (photos and documents).

11. Physical Plant:

- 11.1 Lots of garbage around. Small enclosure behind the ramp a favourite spot for drinkers and overnight guests. Lots of wine containers, clothing and blankets. Have reported to police. We will be installing 2 more cameras: one on the enclosed space and another on the walkway between alley and Scott. Someone attacked here recently. In addition, on Mon May 20 at 7:30, L.Hyatt surprised a drug deal behind Brockies (dealer plus 2 men with needles in their arms). Concerned that escalating problems are becoming a Health & Safety issue. Sherry mentioned that she would be sending letter to Police Services Board. John suggested that she send it asap so as to be included at next meeting. Also recommended that we look into installing a panic button.
- 11.2 New flooring installed at the Hallett. Also ordered new keypads as old are no longer legible.
- 11.3 TBayTel moving the alarm panel from the foyer to inside the museum proper. This allows staff to set alarms and not have them impacted by those using Rainy Lake Square. Event coordinators will lock and unlock entrance door with a door-specific key. Security for the museum will have less chance of being compromised.

12. Community:

- 12.1 Students scheduled Night at the Museum for Sat June 22. Already full.
- 12.2 Friends of the Museum AGM Thurs May 23rd. President: Robert Schulz; Vice Pres: Caren Fagerdahl; Recording Secretary: Sam Manty; Finance: Deb Ballard.

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

- 13.1 Hiring of Assistant: Bev Cochrane will begin Tues June 4.
- 13.2 Training for students and assistant

14. Numbers:

14.1 April numbers: 331; (Apr 2018: 216)

15. Strategic Plan:

15.1 Ian Simpson has offered to review the document with us to be sure we're on track. I've asked him to suggest a time.

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

17. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjournment 1:10 p.m. Next meeting Wed June 26 at 12 noon.

D. Ballard, Chair

S. George, Museum Curator