

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 27, 2019

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on November 27, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:17 p.m.

PRESENT: Debbie Ballard - Chair, Robert Schulz, Mary Hickling, Caren Fagerdahl, Nell Laur,

ALSO PRESENT: Aaron Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager; Sherry George, Museum Curator;
Bev Cochrane, Assistant Curator

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Welcome Aaron Bisson as the new Recreation and Culture Manager.

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

3. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes

3.1 Meeting Date: Oct 30, 2019; Adopted as sent.

4. Governance:

5. Finance:

5.1 Sherry working on final report for MAP grant. Due end of December.

5.2 No word yet on CMOG application.

5.3 Reviewed Museum budget line by line. Discussed the museum's needs for the coming year, and the Town's financial position. Also discussed best uses for the reserve fund (another large exhibit for 2021, some shelving that will make better use of current space).

5.4 Council looking to raise user fees by 1.7%. Other than Kenora, our fees are the same or higher than other museums in our district. We want to be cautious about raising fees beyond what the public is prepared to pay; however it's been at least 5 years since the museum raised admission fees. Following discussion, it was agreed that the museum will propose for 2020 that we raise admission fees, Adults: \$5, Seniors/Children: \$4 and Family Rate: \$15. In conjunction with these changes, it was also suggested that memberships go up: \$30 for individual and \$50 for family memberships.

5.5 Berth for Owandem. Still very reluctant to spend any more of museum's reserve funds on the Owandem berth. However we will discuss other possibilities, such as investigating in-kind services. Caren will make some inquiries and Caren, Debbie and Sherry will meet again Wed Jan 8 at 12 noon.

6. Collections:

7. Exhibitions:

7.1 Current Exhibit: Prohibition until end of December.
Canada: Day One - Jan thru March. Should arrive the week of Jan 6.

8. Interpretation & Education:

8.1 IISD: Experimental Lakes group did a presentation for St Francis Grade 7s on Nov 18. Explained what it is they do there and its importance to climate change.

8.2 History on Tap session has been postponed to Dec 5.

9. Research:

10. Conservation:

11. Physical Plant:

11.1 Small problems. Jim Garvie addresses them quickly.

12. Community:

12.1 Friends Fall Fundraising Gala very successful. Full house.

12.2 Sherry & Bev attended KNCWN historical centre for opening of Veterans of Treaty 3. Bev delivered remarks in Anishinaabemowin. Great ambassador for our museum.

12.3 Fall workshops going well. Participants are very happy and begging for more!! Spring workshop line-up ready soon.

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

13.1 Bev attended 'Organizing & Managing Museums' course in Steinbach last Friday. This is one of the requirements for the Certificate in Museum Practice. It is fortunate for us here in NW Ontario that courses held in Manitoba are recognized by Ontario.

13.2 Sherry retires end of April. Working 4 days per week Jan thru April.

14. Numbers:

14.1 October 2019: 371. (Oct 2018: 431)

15. Strategic Plan:

15.1 Reviewing Collections Management Policy. Suggestions made for a paragraph that would recognize our need to observe Canada's privacy laws in respect to collections such as the Fort Frances police records.

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

16.1 The Museum Advisory Committee would like to forward the suggestions made in 5.4 to council for approval.

17. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE

17.1 Meeting adjourned 1:17 p.m. There will be no meeting in December. Will meet again Wed Jan 22 at noon.

D. Ballard, Chair

S. George, Museum Curator