

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 22, 2020

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on January 22, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:53 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sherry George, Museum Curator, Bev Cochrane, Assistant Curator

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: Nov 27, 2019; Adopted as sent.

4. Governance:

5. Finance:

5.1 Final grant payments came through prior to end of year: CMOG \$21,600 and federal student grant: \$1323.34.

5.2 Fundraising meeting for Owandem held on Jan 15 (John, Caren, Eric, Deb, Sherry). Several ideas proposed. John will look for a volunteer to spearhead a committee that will look for in-kind donations for a berth. Subject was brought forward at Friends meeting on Jan 16; group still feels that \$23,000 raised by museum and Friends group is substantial. Not eager to do more.

6. Collections:

6.1 Donation of archival documents from the Fort Frances Police Department is of concern to town clerk. Strongly feels that some material should not be included and wants to shred. She and I will set a day to look more closely at the material before making a decision.

6.2 The artist for the collages in the Echoes in the Ice exhibit has generously offered to donate them to our museum. Although we appreciate the spirit of the gift, we will decline for lack of storage room.

7. Exhibitions:

7.1 Current exhibit is Canada: Day One. Material is still being added.

7.2 Apr - June exhibit will be on climate change, but with a focus on plastics. We hope to work with IISD again. Sarah Warrack's graduate studies was also plastics.

7.3 Bev is in preliminary discussions around an exhibit put together by a former Couchiching resident, Shawn Johnston. He is a travel photographer who is showing his work. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/indigenous-travel-photographer-1.5185048>

8. Interpretation & Education:

9. Research:

10. Conservation:

11. Physical Plant:

- 11.1 Lots of little problems around humidity. Jim addresses them quickly, but the units are failing often. We are also experiencing problems with doors. In the cold weather, they do not always close properly.

12. Community:

- 12.1 We want to streamline workshop sign-up; will look at methods to register and pay on-line.
- 12.2 Friends thank-you wind-up held Jan 16. Museum provided a supper and small gift.
- 12.3 Friends have begun planning for this year's SnOasis winter carnival, scheduled for March 7 at the Rainy Lake Square. Sherry booked the square with the arena and asked the library friends to participate.

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

- 13.1 Bev, Nell and Sarah will be attending training on collections and deaccessioning in Gimli, MB, Jan 31 and Feb 1. The museum is paying costs for Bev and Nell. Sarah's costs paid for by the Metis.
- 13.2 As Sherry retires end of April, discussion with HR around a replacement is taking place.

14. Numbers:

- 14.1 November 2019: 455 (Nov 2018: 529); December 2019: 223 (Dec 2018: 132).
Museum numbers 2019: 7406; (2018: 6625)

15. Strategic Plan:

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

- 16.1 Suggest that the museum applies to RED provincial grant in the Strategic Economic Infrastructure Stream for funding to build a berth for the Owandem and to upgrade the Hallett.

17. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE

- 17.1 Next meeting: Wed Feb 26 at 12 noon. Adjourned 12:53.

D. Ballard, Chair

S. George, Museum Curator