

## TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

### MINUTES

### MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2018

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on April 24, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:50 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Robert Schulz, Chair, Mary Hickling, Caren Fagerdahl, Nell Laur, Debbie Ballard, G. P. Ryan - Councillor

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sherry George, Museum Curator, Jason Kabel, Community Services Manager

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **3. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes:**

- 3.1 March 27, 2018; M.Hickling moved that minutes be approved; C.Fagerdahl seconded; all in favour.

#### **4. Governance:**

- 4.1 Presentation of Canada 150 pin to Caren Fagerdahl.
- 4.2 Regional Museums group will meet in Fort Frances for spring meeting. Thurs May 10, 10:00 – 3:30.

#### **5. Finance:**

- 5.1 Budget complete. Hallett will be repaired under capital; technology support for museum approved, but no assistant. However prior to curator's retirement in April 2019, a replacement will be hired to ensure continuity.
- 5.2 Trillium and FedNor have approved extensions to grants to allow for ramp to be completed by Oct 31st. Good news. Trillium final report required following construction of ramp - November.
- 5.3 Fagerdahls have followed up with Faragher. Still plans to complete Owandem repairs this summer. Therefore must determine how he is to be paid. \$12,000 raised thru combined efforts of Museum and Friends. Museum will continue to fundraise through inserts with utility bills. Once work completed, should there be a shortfall, will look for other ways to pay at that time. (request to council, through museum reserves, further fundraising)
- 5.4 Museum has money in reserves through community donations. Considering following initiatives:
  - 1) summer drama program (if not approved for Moffatt);
  - 2) folding light-weight tables to replace those in meeting room;

#### **6. Collections:**

- 6.1 Accessioning backlog underway. Students will also assist. Progress on this item will fit nicely with CMOG 2018 requirement of proof of accessioning.

#### **7. Exhibitions:**

- 7.1 Until May 10: Cher Pruys: Reflections of Realism.
- 7.2 May thru Aug: We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience; additional material on Ste Marguerite's from Glenn Jourdain. Opening reception Wed May 23, 3-7 p.m. Public reception, but invitations sent to area First Nations chiefs, mayor and council, Sunset Country Metis, the Friendship Centre and three churches that hosted residential schools. Opening will involve traditional ceremony: sharing of tobacco and food, smudging, drumming.
- 7.3 Sept/Oct: Fort Frances Museum 40th anniversary.
- 7.4 Nov/Dec: First Nations veterans.

## **8. Interpretation & Education:**

- 8.1 Advertising for summer programming will begin soon: Tuesdays at Rainy Lake Square – similar to classes we run for Rec'n Crew group but these open to broader community. For ages 6-11.
- 8.2 Drama programming for youth, ages 10-13 and 14-17, 7-week programming to run July/August.
- 8.3 Have been approached by S.Loney to publish his book: local history from First Nations perspective. The three local museums are supporting this project with research and plan to exhibit in 2019. There will be no cost to us for agreeing to publish as already covered. This is something the museum should do. Committee in agreement.

## **9. Research:**

- 9.1 Local First Nations history  
Museum and building history  
Prohibition.

## **10. Conservation:**

- 10.1 Newspaper digitization continues. There is funding out there, but not for work already started. The only project I can see us pursuing would be online access to the Tener photos.

## **11. Physical Plant:**

- 11.1 Issues with humidifiers resolved – museum was six months without humidity levels mandated by CMOG standards.
- 11.2 Ramp construction will move forward, for fall completion.
- 11.3 Hallett repairs scoped in preparation for tendering work.
- 11.4 Need to determine final location for Owandem on waterfront.
- 11.5 Museum continues to experience problems with cleaning contract. Original cleaner was replaced Mar 23. Since then new cleaner has missed once, then absent since visit Apr 12. Supervisor unable to locate him and keys.

## **12. Community:**

- 12.1 Involvement with Right Relations Circle and partnership with library on indigenous subjects greatly beneficial.

**13. Human Resources / Professional Development:**

- 13.1 International student may not happen. No sign of required paperwork yet and time is an issue.

- 13.2 4 students hired; approved for 3 grants thus far.

**14. Numbers:**

- 14.1 March visitors: 598 (507 in 2017). Includes SnOasis.

**15. Ontario Arts Council:**

- 15.1 Received contract for 2018 arts funding agreement. Yet to be signed.

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

**17. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE**

- 17.1 **Meeting adjourned** at 1:05 p.m.  
**Next meeting:** Tues May 22, 2018 at noon