

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 26, 2018

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on June 26, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:50 a.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Sherry George, Museum 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 April 24: Approved.

No meeting in May, as too few committee members in attendance. All agenda items held for June meeting.

4. Governance:

4.1 Regional Museums Meeting was held in Fort Frances. J.Kabel, R.Schulz, N.Laur, L.Gosse and SGeorge attended for Fort Frances. Representatives from Kenora, Red Lake, Atikokan, Dryden, Kay Nah Chi Wah Nung, Rainy River, Emo, Chapple and Ear Falls Museums. Also regional reps from provincial ministry of Heritage & Culture and federal Canadian Heritage.

4.2 CMOG application package was submitted to council meeting for approval. Discussion around this year's requirements and needs going forward.

5. Finance:

5.1 Budget complete; discussion around the committee's level of involvement. Made plans to discuss donation money in reserve and possible expenditures.

5.2 Applied to TBayTel for Good for \$5000 grant for Owandem renovations. As we did not hear, we assume we were not successful.

6. Collections:

6.1 Providing some in-house training around accessioning.

7. Exhibitions:

7.1 Until end of August - We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience. Opening reception Wed May 23, 3-7 p.m, included drumming in courtyard. Good feedback.

7.2 Building a small exhibit for Pride Week, to be placed in old Brockie's building.

7.3 Sept/Oct: 40th Anniversary of Fort Frances Museum.

- 7.4 Nov/Dec: First Nations Veterans - working with Allan Yerxa (Couchiching) and Margorie Stintzi from the Rainy River Legion.

8. Interpretation & Education:

- 8.1 Schools & school boards very interested in current exhibit; many classes have visited - far more than usual. Students prepared activities appropriate to various age levels. Great feedback.
- 8.2 Meeting with S.Loney re book on May 22. Additional meetings set up with Couchiching and Rainy River First Nations.
- 8.3 Assisting Doug Judson with events/research for Pride Week.
- 8.4 Students planning an 'Escape Room' activity at the Hallett for young adults.
- 8.5 Sent inquiry to Bank of Canada, requesting permission to use image on back of \$1 bank note in a commemorative plaque for the Owandem. Permission granted.

9. Research:

- 9.1 Students researching material around exhibit so as to be properly informed, but also in preparing activities that will be culturally sensitive. Weekly meetings include sharing of information.

10. Conservation:

- 10.1 Weeklies almost complete. Chris completing some of the back-end work that must be done so newspapers display correctly in system.

11. Physical Plant:

- 11.1 Issues with cleaning contract resolved. Current cleaner doing a good job.
- 11.2 Capital work has been tendered, but no word yet when it is to be started.

12. Community:

- 12.1 Museum has returned to summer hours/fees as of May 18th.
- 12.2 High School showed movie Indian Horse May 23 and 24 at Townshend Theatre. Museum followed up with public discussion.
- 12.3 Friends of the Museum AGM held May 29th. President: R.Schulz; Vice-President: C.Fagerdahl; Treasurer: D.Ballard; Secretary: L.Hyatt or L.Gosse.
- 12.4 Friends (Museum & Library) have received Winnipeg Foundation funding for summer youth (ages 10-17) workshops. Fine-tuning the program, then will advertise.
- 12.5 Right Relations Circle meetings continue at museum on 3rd Wed of each month: 10:30. These are very helpful, particularly due to current exhibit material, and partnership with S.Loney and FN communities regarding local history.

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

- 13.1 Students busy with various projects: many school visits, planning summer programming, researching FN and Pride history, planning Night at the Museum for children and Escape Room for adults; plus busy with daily activities: all working under grants.
- 13.2 Intern has reached out to FN communities and attended a number of cultural events (sugar bush tapping in May, pow-wow and sturgeon hatchery at Rainy River; indigenous art workshops in the works for coming year.
- 13.3 Looking for collections management training for more in-depth training around accessioning procedures.
- 13.4 OMA conference is in Toronto this year. We have limited budget for the conference, but I see that one of the topics is succession planning. There is a new rate for northwestern Ontario delegates \$305 (early bird rate \$420; full rate \$619). Nice to see!

14. Numbers:

- 14.1 April visitors: 216 (205 in 2017); May visitors: 453 (276 in 2017)

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

16. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE - Adjourned 12:05; Next meeting Tues July 24th

D. Ballard, Chair

S. George, Museum Curator