

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 24, 2018

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

PRESENT: Debbie Ballard - Chair, Robert Schulz, Mary Hickling, Nell Laur, Jason Kabel

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 Date: Tues June 26; No errors or omissions. Approved as sent.

4. Governance:

4.1 CMOG application was submitted June 27th.

5. Finance:

5.1 Friends - Museum and Library - received \$2000 from Winnipeg Foundation for youth drama workshops at Rainy Lake Square. First session was poorly attended in spite of considerable advertising. Will try again July 20th.

5.2 Museum has over \$20,000 in reserve funds (donation money). Suggestions for using some of that money: fold-up tables on casters for upstairs; bringing in a exhibit on loan. Sherry will look into both options. There is MAP funding (Canadian Heritage) available for exhibit loans as well.

6. Collections:

6.1 Accessioning continues. Running out of storage space. Book/magazine area needs to be reviewed and items culled. Deb and Mary will look at in January. Mill donation of 25 boxes require a decision as what is to be kept. Both Robert and Deb will ask mill retirees

to start process in September. In meantime, items accessioned and boxed will be piled until we have room for storage.

7. Exhibitions:

- 7.1 Until end of August - We Were Taught Differently: the Residential School Experience.
- 7.2 For Pride Week: small exhibit around milestones displayed at From the Grind Up.
- 7.3 Sept/Oct: Museum 40th Anniversary

8. Interpretation & Education:

- 8.1 Summer programming has begun: Rec'n Crew groups visit Tues. mornings weekly; Tues afternoon sees a repeat of the activities for children at the Rainy Lake Square; Tea & Scones on Thursdays busy; drama workshops for youth begins July 20th at RL Square.
- 8.2 Students planning an Escape Room event to take place at the Hallett.
- 8.3 This year's 'Night at the Museum' for children - August 16. The day it was posted on Facebook, we had 10 children signed up.
- 8.4 Intern, Laura Gosse, working to form an area-wide workshop group that will travel through communities. Many will be traditional indigenous classes like beading, moccasin-making, Metis capotes, etc. Great response to the idea and many artists/crafters have come forward to teach. First class will be ribbon skirts at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung.

9. Research:

- 9.1 Continue work on indigenous history and for museum's 40th.

10. Conservation:

- 10.1 Digitization of weekly newspapers complete. Student hired for the project, Chris Silver, now tweaking to ensure Times files (final 20 years in pdf format) work with our system. The Fort Frances Times will do an article once all ready.

11. Physical Plant:

- 11.1 Ramp construction has begun as of July 10. Visitors are being directed to back door.

- 11.2 New flooring ordered for Hallett. Replacement of windows and doors will probably wait until later in year.
- 11.3 New maintenance person hired; will oversee small projects at all facilities, and will be responsible for yearly preventative maintenance - furnace filters, etc.

12. Community:

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

- 13.1 Looking for Collection Management training for N.Laur. If at the right time of year, Deb will also take the course as she would like to help with accessioning once she retires.

14. Numbers:

- 14.1 June numbers: 982 (594 in 2017). The high number is due to school classes visiting residential school exhibit.
- 14.2 Media posts made by intern and students are making significant gains to followers - several hundred. This is great for the museum.

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

16. ADJOURN: 12:50 p.m. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tues Aug 28 at noon.