

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 27, 2018

The meeting of Museum Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Museum on November 27, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:50 a.m.

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

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 Oct 23; Minutes approved as sent.

4. Governance:

5. Finance:

- 5.1 Budget discussions underway. We are looking for an assistant as of March 1 when contract for intern L.Gosse is done. Museum needs someone to work Tues thru Sat, at least 6 hours per day to cover museum hours. Also want to pursue additional security cameras for museum main floor - one camera - and Hallett. Both are needed: the first a requirement of any travelling exhibits, the second because we are upgrading the Hallett and should be monitoring better. Also looking at different way the foyer is alarmed and locked.
- 5.2 Need to finance the berth for the Owandem. E.Fagerdahl has drawn up proposals for a berth for the Owandem. The Museum, having paid for refurbishment of the tug thus far (\$18,800), is asking council to pay costs of the berth. When council agreed to accept the donation of the tug boat, there were no stipulations that the museum would be on the hook for all costs, which thus far have come from donation funds.
- 5.3 Trillium report is due Nov 30. This is the capital 150 grant for the roof, ramp and washroom.

6. Collections:

- 6.1 Accessioning continues. There will be online training for collections management in 2019 that E.Laur hopes to access. Another volunteer, Carolyn Mount, a former museum professional, has offered her help with the accessioning.
- 6.2 Council has agreed to the proposals put forward by the Advisory Committee at our last meeting (Oct 23) for the cutter that has been stored at Public Works. Ownership remains with the Hamiltons. The sleigh will be displayed at the Rainy Lake Square during the winter and stored at Public Works during the summer. Item will be moved spring and summer by arena staff. Item will be stored on a pallett upside down and wrapped. Museum will purchase a tarp yearly. Sleigh has undergone refurbishment courtesy of Eric Fagerdahl, and paid for by the museum. However rot was more extensive than anticipated and due to substandard work during an earlier repair. This repair work is a one time only agreement. Any further work is the responsibility of the Hamiltons.

7. Exhibitions:

- 7.1 Museum has applied for 'Echoes in the Ice: Looking for Franklin's Ship' which will run June 19 thru mid Sept 19 this year. Loan fee is \$9,300 plus approx \$5000 in shipping costs. We are looking into funding assistance through a MAP grant. With no assistance, the museum donation fund will be tapped. Relative to this exhibit, we will be looking at an alternate admissions fee schedule that will apply to this summer only. We will also begin advertising now and cover Northwestern Ontario.
- 7.2 Current exhibit: Indigenous Veterans of Treaty 3. Opening on Nov 8 was very well attended by FN communities as well as area residents. We have been asked to travel the exhibit; K.Speirs of KNCWN, a partner, is looking into funding.
- 7.3 Jan 15 thru Mar upstairs: Fibre Arts Festival in conjunction with Fibre Content, a travelling exhibit that will be featured downstairs.
- 7.4 The museum has also applied for 'Indians Before Hollywood' another travelling exhibit for 2020. Cost will be close to that of the Franklin Expedition. It is unlikely we'll get this one for the summer, so we will be marketing more to locals including schools.

8. Interpretation & Education:

- 8.1 Classroom visits from the alternative education program. Also received inquiries from separate schools for the indigenous veterans exhibit. Will be visiting late November.
- 8.2 C.Fagerdahl preparing the winter/spring line-up of workshops. We will be requiring payment with registrations.
- 8.3 One more workshop in the indigenous workshops series before Christmas (tourtiere making at KNCWN).
- 8.4 Museum developing material around the United Nations Sustainable Goals. With only 12 years to impact climate change, we feel we need to be doing more to raise awareness around the issue. Because we have a blank spot exhibit-wise April/May, and April 22 is Earth Day, we will be focusing on the climate change issue.
- 8.5 Museum is once more offering evening youth drama classes taught by L.Hyatt.
- 8.6 Have received promotional material around self-guided tours using Smart phone apps -- very similar to what we were looking at developing here six years ago. These tours are spreading world-wide and are in many larger centres in Canada. IFalls has also introduces these last summer (one of their councillors showed a lot of interest at a meeting). I'm looking at what cost would be, but may still be too prohibitive.

9. Research:

- 9.1 Max Hayes continues to research indigenous veterans. She has a considerable list that she's following up with.

10. Conservation:

11. Physical Plant:

- 11.1 Met with K.Rogoza Nov 20 to discuss additional security cameras for museum and Hallett. He will coordinate with TBayTel around changes to alarms in foyer and investigate new lock, to ensure staff overseeing RL Square activities do not have access to the entire museum as is the case now.

12. Community:

- 12.1 Friends Fundraising Gala held Nov 1. Full house. Very successful evening.
- 12.2 Met with Linklater group Nov 21 to discuss indigenous awareness training for community.
- 12.3 Following completion of an OMA Museum Impact Survey, they have asked to use our story in their social media and communications.

13. Human Resources / Professional Development:

- 13.1 S.George has briefly discussed with Human Resources extending her employment until end of 2019, possibly May of 2020. More discussion will follow.

14. Numbers:

- 14.1 October: 431 (Oct 2017: 425)

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

16. ADJOURN / NEXT MEETING DATE

Adjourned 1:20 p.m. Next meeting; Tues Dec 11 at 12 noon will deal with budget only.

D. Ballard, Chair

S. George, Museum Curator