



Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable

October 15th 2009, Minutes

Future Meeting Dates: Thursdays, Nov. 19th, and Dec. 17th, 12 – 2 pm

Present: Jane Fogal, Ken Hall, Chris Macewan, Carolyn Martin, Kay Matthews, Wayne Pries, Alice Rice, Beatrice Sharkey, Laurent Thibault (chair)

1. **Welcome** - Laurent welcomed the group, the September Minutes were reviewed and approved, and today's Agenda was approved.
2. **Other Business**
 - Tom presented a comprehensive analysis of how gas prices increasing significantly over the next twenty years will potentially change the way we live and travel making higher density housing and community cores a strategy that needs serious consideration. The members agreed to keep this information in mind, as well as how density issues impact the a/c/h needs and resources of communities as we move forward participating in the THH sustainability exercise. The Sustainability Committee (Chris is our representative) is a large committee covering all four quadrants of interest which will meet quarterly and develop a sustainability plan to direct THH's sustainability activities. This will link closely with the already completed Community Improvement Plan which currently guides Council's decisions. It will be important to ensure that the Culture component doesn't get lost within this large undertaking. Chris will report back after each meeting to keep us informed of this initiative's progress.
 - At our last meeting Tom raised the issue of our need to track our activities both to maximize our efficiency and to ensure community impact. Beatrice also reported that many of the grants we are currently applying for require quantitative data about results. Kay, Jane & Beatrice will meet sometime over the next two months to draft a plan for tracking this data on a continuous basis including a potential survey via survey monkey to this sector's members. We will aim for implementing this tracking after our January 2010 Symposium. In considering this tracking step it will also be crucial for us to consider who we are partnering with and under what circumstances to ensure the wisest uses of our resources.
3. **Financial Update**
 - The bank balance is unchanged since September (a new statement has not been received)
 - The incorporation process is underway and it is hoped the number will be assigned in time for the next grant application. Following this step we will need to consider what our next steps for organizational development are.

4. Community Outreach, Partnerships & Communications

- Beatrice briefed the group on the wrap-up meeting of the Dickens Festival. The event organizers were grateful for our assistance with volunteer recruitment and promotion. Many lessons were learned for next year.
- Beatrice updated the group on this month's community outreach activities including connecting with CVHS's Barber Mill planning group, the Rotary's accessible playground initiative, and potential assistance with grant writing for the Acton Theatre Renovation project. The group agreed that as the Roundtable gets better known in our community it will become increasingly important to balance moving our own projects forward with supporting other community initiatives. To this end the group agreed to make greater efforts to "share the load" of our increasing organizational & project tasks among our group.
- A potential monthly Cogeco feature was discussed including requirements such as producing, researching and recruiting speakers & guests, and administrative tasks. The group decided that this was not the time for us to undertake this effort due to the uncertain return on our potential time/volunteer investment.

5. Grant Application Overview

- The group discussed the details of the recent Festival Heritage grant application, the recent organizational and project-specific Creative Communities grant application, and the still-to-be-written Celebrate Ontario grant application (due November 27th). It was agreed that although these applications are time consuming to develop they are important to undertake especially for project funds such as the website and festival plans. Our January 2009 CSIF application will be also be re-submitted November 16th with a greater focus on the innovation component which we didn't score well on last year.

6. Working Group/Project Updates

- The Community Website/Box Office work continues including where the planning is at, the draft home page design principles, and the membership component plans. Members want to ensure that the a/c/h sector membership feature has a high profile and that careful consideration is given to fees/profiles/the ease with which members can engage each other.
- The Festival working group continues to meet. Decisions have been made with regards to the event's name (Big DADDY Festival), the event length (Saturday evening concert and Sunday event), the partners (Georgetown B.I.A. partnership and Classics Against Cancer affiliation) and the event's main location (Cedervale Park to Main Street). The group continues to work through the details including applying for the upcoming Celebrate Ontario grant cycle. We are considering how a community volunteer pool can be developed using the Festival as the vehicle for increasing year-long community volunteering. More on this next month.
- The Culture Matters page continues with positive feedback, strong support from Ken and Maureen, and sufficient ad uptake thus far.

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