

BOARD OF MUSEUMS MEETING
Thursday, 18 January, 2007
MINUTES

PRESENT: Gordon West (Chair) Bob Collier; Margaret Dunn; Dino Fazio; John Harkness; Marie Henry; Don Jackson; Peter McKenna; Ken Warren

STAFF: Kathleen Powell, Manager; Deborah Legge, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Shirley Fisher; Joyce Morocco

Gordon West, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES:

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of 16 November, 2006, be adopted as distributed.

K. Warren/P. McKenna
Carried

BUSINESS ARISING:

- a) Feasibility Study: A Needs Assessment was distributed and examined. Consensus was that the updated plans resembled but were a bit larger than the original study. There was a discussion of priorities. Bob Bolibruck, Wendy Canavan and Ruth Anne Nieuwesteeg would like to attend a future Board of Museums meeting to present information regarding the market expansion project and the Main & Ferry CIP.

MOTION: That the Board send the Needs Assessment to the architect with a request for a cost to revisit the Feasibility study based on the updated requirements.

K. Warren/M. Dunn
Carried

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Fundraising: A financial report outlining costs and ticket sales was submitted. Ticket books are still outstanding and a possible donation is still forthcoming. We should net approximately \$15,000 at the completion of the raffle project. We now know what kind of work is entailed in taking on a raffle project. D. Jackson distributed copies of a potential liability form for the winner of the vehicle to sign off at the end. The second last paragraph is important: the car is being transferred with a safety certificate and in "as is" condition, with no actual or implied warranty. Brock Ford would like to ensure they have no responsibility for the vehicle after the safety; they will carry out the safety up to value of \$200. There was some discussion of the wording of the document; the Board will have a lawyer advise. M. Henry indicated that she would have her lawyer take a look at the document before the next meeting. Anybody still with outstanding tickets is asked to start now to try and get them back in. The car is going in for a safety during the last week of January. When it leaves the garage it won't be plated (except dealer plates) as the current plates run out at the end of January. The original plan was to have the car in Niagara

Square from Feb 1st until date of the draw, but the mall management advised that this will not be possible. Tickets will continue to be sold at the Square (as at Christmas) on the Saturdays of February 3, 10, 16 and 17. Heritage display will be in the Winners area the weekend of February 16, 17, and 18; a Press Release will go out the week before.

- b) Armoury Ad Hoc: The Board has received a letter through the City Solicitor from the Niagara Military Museum's lawyer indicating that they would like to meet with the Museums Board and City lawyer regarding Schedule D of the lease. It was agreed that the Military Museum lawyer will be asked to bring forward suggestions as to alternatives to Schedule D before a meeting is scheduled. Asbestos and mould work in the building is completed; we are waiting for budget approval before starting to paint.

The homeowners of the property directly next to the Armoury continue to request a cost sharing arrangement for a fence between the two properties. (See September 2006 Minutes) Mr. Domenic Sinicropi has been in touch with the City Clerk to appeal to Council for funding for the fence. K. Powell will take some pictures of the property line to clarify the matter. It was felt that it would be premature to deal with the fence when we don't know how the building will be used in future.

- c) 1812/2012 Task Force: There is little news since the last report; the next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2007. Jock Ainslie arranged to have a meeting with Mayor Salci, Kim Craitor and Rob Nicholson about the battlefield property. The meeting provided the Board of Museums a chance to articulate their capital expansion project. Mr. Nicholson is very enthusiastic about the importance of commemorating the War of 1812 Bicentennial. There seemed to be an indication that a full combined plan including market area, museum, battlefield improvement etc. will have more success in being funded than a series of smaller individual projects. R. Nicholson indicated that he would like to arrange a meeting with the mayor and the Minister of Heritage next time the mayor is in Ottawa.

K. Powell advised that Museum and City staff are working on a plan to put together all these projects: the Museum's expansion, Main & Ferry CIP, Sylvia Place Market, the Battlefield lands, etc. and will then take this to the Task Force for comment before being brought before Council for endorsement.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to discuss.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- a) The Chili... Music for a Winter's Evening Event went well. Profit was about \$500.
b) Popcorn sales at Candlelight Stroll lost money (approx. \$25.00) due to cost of renting the popcorn machine and the low numbers of sales throughout the evening.

- c) Thanks to K. Warren for helping with staff performance evaluations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) By-Laws: K. Warren presented a letter from the City Clerk regarding the Board's input into length of term for Boards. K. Warren brought forward the issue of the long overdue updating of the Museums Board's by-laws. The by-laws have not been updated since the 1970's. At the beginning of the last term of the Board, a suggested update of the by-law was provided to the City Clerk for comment.

MOTION: That the Board of Museums send a letter to the City Clerk asking for status regarding the Board's updated by-law; with copies to Mayor Salci, and City CAO John Macdonald.

K. Warren/B. Collier
Carried

Discussion of the Board's by-laws, indicating a need to be updated especially with regards to the terms of office of members, etc. Once everyone has had an opportunity to look at it the old by-laws the Board will send the letter to the City Clerk. K. Powell will send copies of the current and amended by-laws with the minutes for the next meeting.

- b) Screening of Downtown Oral History Project. Screening of the finished Oral History project is at 2:00 p.m. January 30 at the Victoria Avenue Public Library in the LaMarsh Room. Board members are especially requested to attend.
- c) NostalgiaFest: We have been asked to participate in Queen Street Nostalgiafest (a food and wine festival in June 2007) trying to tag into the historical aspect of the area. They have asked if the Museums would like to set up a booth with information and provide historic walking tours of the downtown. Decision on whether to participate was tabled until the next meeting, pending notification of sponsorship for the event.
- d) Nominations: Discussion of which members of the Board were planning to reapply, and who is resigning at the end of this term, and further discussion of prospective Board members. Applications close on Friday, January 26, after which time we will receive information on the coming term's applicants.
- e) The members of the Board of Museums expressed gratitude to those members who are leaving, as this is their last meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: That this meeting adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

K. Warren/B. Collier
Carried

***Next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 15, 2007, in the
Lundy's Lane Historical Museum Board Room
5810 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls, ON***

Chair

Manager

Date