



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting
October 7th, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Council Chambers – Town Hall**

Committee and Staff Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Michael Bradley, Chair
Chris Couper, Vice Chair
Leslie Ann Hook, Committee Member
Jennifer McGuire, Committee Member
Gaganpal Singh Bhasin, Committee Member

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Lynch, County Councillor
Jo Ann Pecaskie, Committee Member

Town Staff Present:

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture /
Curator
Oliver Jacob, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Michael Bradley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Dan Lynch and Jo Ann Pecaskie.

3. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Michael Bradley asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 016-24
Moved by Leslie Ann Hook
Seconded by Jennifer McGuire

Be It Resolved That the agenda for the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, October 7th, 2024 be adopted.

Resolution Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 017-24

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Leslie Ann Hook

Be It Resolved That the minutes for the May 6th, 2024 and September 3rd, 2024 Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee meetings be adopted.

Resolution Carried

7. Presentations/ Delegations

a) September Curator's Report

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture / Curator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the activities of the Arnprior and District Museum during the month of September 2024 and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- Estimated attendance figures for the 2024 Cultural Night Market were in the range of 1,000 to 1,200 attendees, similar to last year.

b) October Curator's Report

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture / Curator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the activities of the Arnprior and District Museum during the month of October 2024 and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- The Museum welcomes cooperative education students to join their team during the school year. Students are introduced to all parts of the Museum organization in their first few weeks and the Manager of Culture / Curator then works with each student to identify their passions and determine an appropriate project for the remainder of their placement. This has been effective with the current coop student who is exploring the possibility of a cricket exhibit suggested by a CDAC member.
- Concern was shared with regard to challenges with hiring a permanent Outreach Coordinator and that in the interim the Town elected to hire a fixed-term employee in the role during the summer months.
- It was shared that the Manager of Culture / Curator is currently working to finalize the 2025 programming line-up at the Arnprior and District Museum and

more information will be brought forward to the next meeting for the committee's information.

- It was shared that a collaborative alliance of cultural groups may be helpful to further coordinate and work together; however, it was noted that there is a lack of capacity within the sector to action this type of endeavour.
- The committee discussed their goals and objectives as listed in the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference document and shared that they would like to discuss priorities at their next meeting.
- Given her professional work with Urban Runaway, Leslie Anne Hook shared that she would be willing to provide information on their community services work across the region as a delegation at a future meeting.
- The Manager of Culture / Curator shared that the Culture Plan is an evolving document and that her desire is to begin the initial data collection work and start to develop initial recommendations. The Culture Plan will take years to refine; however, she agreed to bring back more information on the planning process at the next committee meeting.
- The Manager of Culture / Curator shared that the Peace Initiative has been working together as a small group with a focus on peace activism in our community. They have held some public meetings over the past few months and they are currently working with the Manager of Culture / Curator to develop a plan for 2025.

8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business

None

9. Staff Reports

None

10. New Business

a) Roundtable Discussion

Michael Bradley, Chair, shared that this item is an opportunity to share any questions, comments, thoughts and perspectives, with the following being a summary of the discussion topics that took place:

- The Manager of Culture / Curator asked committee members to consider the personalization of land acknowledgements and how folks should approach delivering such acknowledgements.
- It was shared that the feeling of support and connection within the community is a key aspect to attracting and retaining New Canadians and cultural programs / activities can assist in allowing them to feel more at ease.

Infrastructure investments in cultural amenities (i.e. cricket pitches) would be a potential improvement to be considered in future.

- Regarding a question about Remembrance Day activities, the Manager of Culture / Curator shared that the Museum will be hosting a film screening of the Fruit Machine, a 2018 Canadian documentary film focusing on the use of psychological testing to attempt to identify 2SLGBTQ+ employees in the Canadian civil service during the 1950s and 1960s. The film screening will take place on November 9th, 2024 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM at the Arnprior and District Museum. In addition, the Collections Coordinator is working on a Remembrance Day pop-up exhibit to complement and staff are collaborating with an ADHS Grade 10 class on a new exhibit on military service.
- Following a discussion on the types of proclamations that are approved by the Town, the committee discussed implementing a cultural lens to help the Town consider using all available communication styles and media to reach as many people as possible.
- There was a conversation about volunteer opportunities and how to find such opportunities for those who are new to the community. It was shared that there may be opportunities to work with the Arnprior Public Library and other community services sector entities to improve the volunteer fair and implement a volunteer portal.

b) Community Belongings Workshop

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture / Curator, led the committee through a short workshop to better understand the role that community belongings play in the Arnprior and District Museum.

c) 2024 Cultural Night Market Debrief and Next Steps

Emily Stovel, Manager of Culture / Curator, and Oliver Jacob, Deputy Clerk, provided an overview of the 2024 Cultural Night Market and encouraged committee members to share their feedback.

Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members with the following being a summary of the comments noted:

- Committee members expressed positive feedback on the event and reported that parking was sufficient and there was no unruly behaviour. It was good to see the variety of vendors and diversity across the event.
- It will be important for committee members to consider the value proposition for the Cultural Night Market event and discuss what they would like to see next year.

- Additional consideration for volunteers and the requirements to have Criminal Record Checks / Vulnerable Sector Checks will be helpful in the 2025 planning process to support increased volunteer participation.
- For food vendors, they seemed to prioritize providing full meals to attendees and there was some feedback around working with food vendors and local businesses to provide samples (smaller portions) to allow attendees to try more items.
- Discussions ensued regarding possible development of a transparent policy through which decisions are made for vendor, performer and contractor (i.e. artist, photographer, videographer, Master of Ceremonies) applications.

d) Information Items

The committee received the information items listed on the Committee Agenda as information.

1. FCM Guide for Municipalities on UNDRIP
2. Data Analysis Practice

Committee members requested that the reading list on cultural planning that was discussed at a previous meeting be shared with the committee before the next meeting.

11. Adjournment

Resolution Number 018-24

Moved by Chris Couper

Seconded by Leslie Ann Hook

That the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:49 PM.

Resolution Carried