



## Cultural Roundtable Committee Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024  
7:00 p.m.  
LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Peggy Raftis, Councillor Ed Podniewicz, Caitlin Hall, Jennifer Frayne, Amy Sjaarda, Rosie Krul, and Raissa Rogers.

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director of Economic & Community Development, Erin Raftis, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator, and Gordon Duff, Treasurer.

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson, Megan Raftis, and Mary Jean Hartwig,

1. **Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - a. Minutes from October 23, 2023, Cultural Roundtable Meeting

### **MOTION**

**Moved by: Raissa Rogers Seconded by: Amy Sjaarda**

**THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, meeting.  
CARRIED.**

3. **Sub-Committee Updates, Reports and Minutes for Approval**
  - a. Minutes of November 1, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - b. Minutes of December 6, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - c. Minutes of January 10, 2024, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting

Wick-Graham provided an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, who have met monthly since its inception. The Committee invited speakers to attend their monthly meetings to help better educate the group on relevant issues in the area. Since November, they have hosted Elsa Mann from the Mount Forest Family Health Team to talk about Homelessness and Cindy McMann from the Rural Women's Support Network.

The Committee is also working to install a Community Pantry in Clifford with the final location to be in Clifford Rotary Celebration Square as a part of Minto Pride's Public Art Project.

Wick-Graham also noted that the DEI Committee is preparing events in their Diversity Learning Series, most recently hosting a successful Black Heritage Month event. In September, they will host a Truth and Reconciliation event. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Committee is hosting a No Room for Hate presentation with the OPP, Victim Services, and Crime Stoppers at the Harriston Library.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved by: Raissa Rogers Seconded by: Councillor Ed Podniewicz**

**THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee meetings.**

**CARRIED.**

#### **d. Minutes of November 15, 2023, Railway Heritage Museum Committee**

Wick-Graham reviewed the Sub-Committee minutes, noting the additional off-season meeting to continue preparing for the restoration of the Caboose and Box Car, as well as Palmerston's Homecoming in 2025. The Committee is currently fundraising to restore the caboose and has applied for Rural Economic Development Funding, in partnership with the Palmerston Agricultural Society, Minto Farmers' Market, All Aboard Palmerston, and the County of Wellington Museum & Archives. The Committee has also created a plan of Museum improvements to be completed prior to Homecoming in 2025.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved by: Amy Sjaarda Seconded by: Raissa Rogers**

**THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Railway Heritage Museum Committee meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

#### **e. Pride Committee Update**

Caitlin Hall updated on the Minto Pride Committee. She requested feedback from the Cultural Roundtable regarding their Public Art Piece Call to Artists (attached as Schedule 'A'). The commissioned piece will now have a general diversity lens and is required to encompass the DEI Committee's Community Pantry in some form. The Committee recommended adding

the artist's compensation in the callout. The Committee discussed the importance of having diverse local judges. Representatives from Clifford Connects, Minto Pride, and the DEI Committee will help choose the final art.

Hall also shared that the Committee held a successful Free Public Skate, noting that it was nice to have a positive presence in the community.

Upcoming, the group is hosting an adult Bowling Alley Social on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Pride in the Park will return on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This year, it is set to include a Drag Show story-time for youth and the Committee reinforced that they will be prepared with responses in the event of negative feedback from the community. The Committee noted the importance of celebrating pride with children despite negativity that may be received.

The Pride Committee will be opening sales for Lawn Signs and Decals to be purchased at the Town of Minto and Launchit offices.

Raissa Rogers added that the Minto Pride Drag Show Fundraiser will be on June 29<sup>th</sup> and will be a 19+ event.

#### **4. Roundtable Discussion**

##### **a. SPARC Symposium, May 23 - May 26, 2024**

Gordon Duff provided an update on SPARC, of which Peggy Raftis and Megan Raftis are on the planning committee for as well. The Symposium is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> and early bird ticket sales are now open. There will be over 15 workshops, and meals and entertainment are included in the ticket cost. Wick-Graham reminded the Committee that interested members can have their ticket covered by the Cultural Roundtable.

##### **b. Joint Cultural Roundtable Symposium**

Wick-Graham shared that a Cultural Roundtable Symposium will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Hanover Civic Theatre, as a follow-up to our Joint Cultural Roundtable meeting with Wellington North and Hanover Cultural Roundtables. There will be sessions on DEI, a presentation by Ontario Culture Days, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and more. A free lunch is provided. Members are invited to attend and can RSVP to Belinda.

##### **c. Cultural Plan Update**

Wick-Graham presented the new Town of Minto Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, highlighting the focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural efforts in the coming years. She shared that the Cultural Plan will also be updated, and Committee members participated in an activity to determine the meaning of culture, important issues, future opportunities, and key stakeholders. The Committee agreed that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee should become a Committee of Council, rather than a Sub-Committee of the Cultural Roundtable, as all projects in Minto should be viewed through both a Cultural & DEI lens. Committee members may be contacted for interviews in the coming months.

d. 2024 Cultural Roundtable Budget

Duff and Wick-Graham presented a potential budget for 2024, which allocates funds to Minto Pride and the DEI Committee, music at the Minto Farmers' Market, ads in the Wellington Advertiser, and more. The Committee is currently waiting to determine if they will receive a grant to fund an Ontario Culture Days Guide, which is a project split between Minto, Hanover, and Wellington North, but allocated budget towards it in the event we do not receive the grant. The proposed budget is attached as Schedule 'B'.

**5. Committee Member Updates**

Rosie Krul reported that the library branches are launching their registration for March break activities. She also shared that the library has a data base the public can access to search for grants online.

Jennifer Frayne added that she will be attending virtually until September 2024.

Belinda Wick-Graham noted that the Harriston Skating Carnival is on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Palmerston at 2:00 pm.

Erin Raftis shared that the second Community Calendar has been shared to all Community Groups and Businesses and will be posted online for March 1<sup>st</sup>. She encouraged members to share any additional events they are aware of for 2024. Raftis added to save the date and register for next week's events. On March 5<sup>th</sup> there is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshop and on March 6<sup>th</sup> the DEI Committee is hosting No Room for Hate, a presentation by Crimestoppers, Wellington OPP, and Victims Services. Raftis will send further details via email the following day.

Gordon Duff noted that the SPARC Committee would like to ask the Minto Farmers' Market to host an additional market during the weekend on the Symposium. Raftis will connect with the Farmers' Market Committee that meets in March.

Caitlin Hall updated on Reroot's activities, noting the Northern Rural Romp will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She also shared that she hopes to continue Foodie Fridays at the Farm, with intentions to put in place a certified kitchen. Hall also has plans to expand her Equinox events to each season. Finally, she added that Palmerston Skating Carnival is this Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Palmerston Arena.

Councillor Ed Podniewicz noted that North Perth is having a meeting to address the homelessness issue in their area and shared that it could be worthwhile for Minto to attend as well. Wick-Graham added that Wellington County also held a summit, and we are currently waiting for resulting action items. Councillor Podniewicz also shared that the Palmerston Lions held a successful Valentine's Day fundraiser dance.

Raissa Rogers reported that 30 people attended The Crown Harriston's showing of "Godforsaken". On April 27<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting a YukYuks Comedy Show. She also shared a potential fundraising event to be held in 2024 to show a movie that tells the story of small

business owners from Syria who were displaced and moved to Nova Scotia to run their chocolate business (Peace by Chocolate). The Committee suggested partnering with Culture Days to host this in October and added that the Town of Minto could likely sponsor some of the event.

Amy Sjaarda added that she continues to work on the Safety Circles idea. Chair Raftis offered to connect to go through next steps.

Gordon Duff updated that the next Minto Arts Gallery Show opens March 7<sup>th</sup>. He also shared that Film Fest continues to bring newcomers, while struggling to retain some old audience members. On March 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a showing of a movie about Mr. Dressup.

Peggy Raftis shared that the Grey Wellington Theatre Guild is holding a casting for “Not Your Typical Variety Show” on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to be presented in June 2024. She added that the Spring comedy, featuring Cultural Roundtable member, Megan Raftis, is set for April 26, 27, 28 and May 3, 4, 5. Summer Youth Theatre auditions are on May 7<sup>th</sup> with performances on July 26 – 28<sup>th</sup>. She also shared that the GWTG is in it’s 50<sup>th</sup> year and will be hosting a celebratory Gala. The Fall musical will be “Anne of Green Gables”. Raftis also communicated that Harriston Rising’s Chili Cook-Off is on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm at the Harriston Legion and Egg-Scramble is on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am – 1 pm at the Harriston Arena. All are welcome to attend.

Wick-Graham followed up on an email sent to the GWTG, Minto Arts Council, and the Crown Harriston about an opportunity to host a jazz band on June 8<sup>th</sup> and encouraged groups to look into this further.

Mary Jean Hartwig provided a report via email about the Harriston Historical Society (HHS), sharing that Mark Mackenzie has resigned as Chair of the HHS. The Committee is currently looking to encourage members and friends to share little stories and historic bits in the newspaper to build interest in the HHS, with the potential to include crossword puzzles.

## **6. Adjournment at 8:37 p.m.**

Next meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, at Launchit Minto.

## Schedule A: Minto Pride's Call for Artists

### Call For Artists for Minto Public Art

Minto Pride and the DEI Committee are looking for artists!

Are you an artist who wants to make a statement in our community?

Minto Pride is teaming up with Minto's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, and we are looking for artists to design and implement a public art piece to represent and celebrate diversity in Minto. The canvas for this art piece is the new **Community Free Pantry** that will be in Clifford.

What do we mean by diversity? Your design could include (but is not limited to) representation of the queer community, BIPOC communities, Indigenous communities, newcomers to Canada, and people with a variety of ages and lived experiences. Your design could represent connection, acceptance, or the celebration of diversity. We want to know what diversity means to you and how you as an artist would showcase it. Preference will be given to candidates who identify within a minority group; however we encourage all artists to apply.

Multiple mediums are possible - designing art for wraps, graffiti, welding sculpture, and more. The only limit is your imagination.

There will be monetary compensation of up to \$2000 for the selected artist to cover their materials and time. This compensation is sponsored by the Clifford Connects Committee, and the Minto Pride Committee under the Cultural Roundtable.

You are welcome to make as many submissions as you like. Send in your entries for selection by March 31, 2024. An independent jury panel, made up of local judges from the DEI, Minto Pride, and Clifford Connects Committees, will make their choice public on April 15, 2024. The artist will have until the end of May 2024 to complete their work.

Please submit your designs to the link below:

<https://forms.gle/dxPWqr5aLSYyzSbC8>

Contact:

[mintopridecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mintopridecommittee@gmail.com)

@MintoPride on Facebook or Instagram



## Schedule B: Proposed Budget

### CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET

#### ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATION

<u>Item</u>	<u>2023 Actual Amount</u>	<u>2023 Budget Amount</u>	<u>2024 Budget Amount</u>
Clifford Makers Market	\$300	\$500	\$0
Farmers Market Music	500	500	500
Pride Public Art	0	1,000	1,000
Minto Pride Events	1,800	1,000	1,000
Teviotdale Mural	0	500	0
Ontario Culture Days Guide (w/o grant)	0	0	1,500
Ads in The Wellington Advertiser	3,053	3,000	3,000
Culture Days	1,020	900	1,000
SPARC Symposium	94	0	700
Cultural Diversity Event	75	0	0
DEI Committee	948	2,000	2,000
Historical Plaques	0	0	0
HHS - Headstone Hunt	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	16	0	0
Christmas Events	<u>804</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>800</u>
	<b><u>\$8,609</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,500</u></b>

#### EVENTS FUND

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Harriston Fall Fair Culuture Events	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Truth & Reconciliation Events	0	0	1,000
R'AlleWay Festival	0	1,000	0
Other Events	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<b><u>\$1,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,000</u></b>