



## Cultural Roundtable Committee Minutes

Monday, June 24, 2024

7:00 p.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Peggy Raftis, Councillor Ed Podniewicz, Caitlin Hall, Jennifer Frayne, Amy Sjaarda, Rosie Krul, Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson, Mayor David Turton, Mary Jean Hartwig, Raissa Rogers, and special guest, Jennifer Reynolds, MGA.

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

Regrets: Megan Raftis

1. **Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - a. Minutes from February 26, 2024, Cultural Roundtable Meeting

### MOTION

Moved by: Rosie Krul Seconded by: Amy Sjaarda

THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024, meeting.

**CARRIED.**

3. **Sub-Committee Updates, Reports and Minutes for Approval**
  - a. Minutes of April 10, 2024, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - b. Minutes of May 1, 2024, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting
  - c. Minutes of June 5, 2024, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting

Wick-Graham reviewed the DEI sub-committee minutes highlighting the guest speakers from the three previous meetings including Angela Smith from the Municipality of Central Huron on accessibility, Justine Dainard from the County of Wellington on food pantries, and Angelle Eybel, Chair of the Minto Safe Communities Committee. Wick-Graham noted that the Minto

Pride Committee, Clifford Connects Committee and DEI committee are collaborating on the new Food Pantry in Clifford which will be officially opened on July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Clifford Carnival Celebration. The next DEI event is Truth and Reconciliation on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Members of the Cultural Roundtable suggested looking into a sponsor for the food to ensure the event is free to attend in conjunction with Minto Culture Days.

**MOTION**

**Moved by: Mary Jean Hartwig Seconded by: Councillor Ed Podniewicz**

**THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the April 10, May 1, and June 5, 2024, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee meetings.**

**CARRIED.**

d. Minutes of May 13, 2024, Railway Heritage Museum Committee

Wick-Graham reviewed the Railway Committee minutes sharing that the Museum welcomed three new students, and one returning student to their staff. The Committee has applied for the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant and is waiting to hear if they are successful to begin restoration on the caboose. The Railway Museum is also a recipient of the Mayor's Golf Tournament funding. The Museum plans to host various events this season as well.

**MOTION**

**Moved by: Mayor David Turton Seconded by: Mary Jean Hartwig**

**THAT the Cultural Roundtable approve the minutes of the May 13, 2024, Railway Heritage Museum Committee meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

e. Minto Pride Committee Update

Minto Pride members provided an update on the Minto Pride Committee noting that youth artist and Norwell DSS student, Shayne Lamont is currently painting on the Food Pantry to be completed for installation in July. Pride in the Park was successful with over 200 people in attendance. The event was bigger this year and featured live music, a keynote speaker, and a Drag Storytime. She also shared that the pride décor was vandalized in Palmerston, but a generous volunteer purchased and redecorated the following day.

**4. Roundtable Discussion**

a. Cultural Master Plan Update

Jennifer Reynolds from MGA led the committee in a discussion regarding the Cultural Master Plan update. She reviewed the 5 suggested pillars (Organizational Capacity & Cultural Investment, Community Expectations, DEI as a Corporate Lens, Networking, and Promoting Minto as a Cultural Destination) and the committee agreed on the direction of the plan thus far. The committee thanked Reynolds for joining us. The Cultural Master Plan is scheduled to

be presented to Council on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wick-Graham encouraged the Committee to stay engaged as we share the Plan draft actions in the coming weeks for their feedback.

b. SPARC Recap

Gordon Duff reviewed the SPARC Symposium held in Minto in May. Duff recapped the speakers and sessions at the event, which was attended by people from across Ontario. The Symposium received very positive feedback and had a large economic impact on our community. The committee thanked all who were involved for their excellent work.

c. Joint Cultural Roundtable Symposium Recap & Next Steps

Wick-Graham noted that the first Cultural Roundtable Joint Symposium was a success and received positive feedback. Next year is planned for May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Minto. Wick-Graham mentioned joint initiatives to follow include the ON Culture Guide, which will cost each municipality approximately \$1,200, and pending grant approval, a Culture Bus and Driftscape App. The committee voiced an interest in another joint meeting (like fall 2023 in Minto) where members can interact, ask questions, and brainstorm directly with the other committees, either in addition, or in collaboration with the next Symposium. Belinda Wick-Graham will follow up with Wellington North and Hanover to suggest Wellington North host a meeting, and Minto do the next symposium in 2025.

d. Culture Days

Gordon Duff mentioned that the Culture Days committee should meet soon to begin planning and reviewed the expectations of those on the committee. The Cultural Roundtable suggested pairing down the event calendar to help ease the load on staff and volunteers.

e. Committee Member Updates

Rosie Krul shared that the libraries Summer Reading Programs have started for kids, teens, and adults. The libraries are also hosting a variety of kids programming this summer.

Gordon Duff updated that the Minto Arts Council's project with Lynn Jamieson on Volunteer Recruitment Retention is ending, and a report will be completed in the near future. Their committee has three new board members. He shared that artist, Shayne Lamont, was the recipient of the Minto Arts Council bursary, and winner of people's choice award at their recent Norwell Student Art Show, which she also helped to coordinate. The Film Circuit is on hiatus until September.

Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson reported that the Harriston Horticultural Society's Garden Festival was a success under their new event chair and emphasized the satisfaction with their partnership with the Minto Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast. Their committee continues to seek new members and volunteers.

Amy Sjaarda shared that she is continuing to work on a resource pamphlet to consolidate all the information and resources we have for safety in the community. Belinda Wick-Graham

offered to ask the County of Wellington to assist in translation of the pamphlet. This will be added to the Newcomers' Bags and distributed through libraries and other sources.

Councillor Ed Podniewicz added that the Palmerston Lions had a successful Party in the Park event and raised approximately \$6000 with the Guide Dog Walk.

Mayor David Turton reported that the County of Wellington Museum will be hosting their Summer Concert series from July 11<sup>th</sup> – August as well as their Multi Cultural Event on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Jean Hartwig updated that the Harriston Historical Society has two new members on their committee. The annual Headstone Hunt is happening now until August 13<sup>th</sup>, with special clues to honour the 25<sup>th</sup> amalgamation of Minto. It can be downloaded off their website. The summer exhibit features the Grey-Wellington Theatre Guild to commemorate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hartwig also announced that she will be retiring as the Historical Society rep on the Cultural Roundtable. Chair Raftis asked Hartwig to consider remaining on the committee as a member at large.

Caitlin Hall added that Reroot Farm's Foodie Fridays will resume this upcoming Friday and feature tacos and a bonfire to kick off the summer. She shared that the Rural Romp was rainy but still busy.

Erin Raftis shared that the past weekend was a successful Minto Farmers' Market Strawberry Social (selling more cake than previous years), and a hot but successful Raleway Festival. She encouraged the committee to attend the upcoming Clifford Carnival on July 13<sup>th</sup>, which will feature lots of exciting activities like a dog show, magician, food trucks, live music, the Newcomers' Welcome Reception and more. More details will be shared on social media. She added that the August 10<sup>th</sup> Harriston Street Party will feature the Car Show, Makers' Market, the Foam Party, and new this year, interactive hockey games. The dinner will be catered by Homestyle Bites.

Belinda Wick-Graham reported on a successful Pitchit event the previous week, with Brass Ridge Acres as the winners. She also mentioned that the Harriston-Minto Fall Fair Ambassador competition is on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Raissa Rogers shared the Crown Harriston has been hosting various comedy shows and movie screenings with varied attendance. She encouraged the committee to share and attend the upcoming Drag Show on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Crown will be closed for the summer, but the Magic Ice Cream Shoppe is open and busy.

Chair Peggy Raftis updated on the Grey Wellington Theatre Guild, mentioning their most recent comedy "Gibson & Sons" was the best financial success for a non-musical play in recent years. The "Not So Typical Variety" show, held the previous weekend, was also well attended. Upcoming at the theatre includes auditions for "Anne of Green Gables" on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM, Summer Youth Theatre's "Steal the Rich" written by Megan Raftis on July

26, 27, 28, (tickets are family-friendly pricing at \$5 each), and the Anniversary Gala on September 7<sup>th</sup> (early bird tickets available soon for \$45) in partnership with the Harriston Legion.

**6. Adjournment at 8:29 p.m.**

Next meeting is September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Launchit.