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**CULTURAL ROUNDTABLE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 | 10:00 am  
Zoom

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**MEMBERS PRESENT** Susan Sakal | Bev Morgan | Dave Hocking | Al Morrow | Megan Cordery

**REGRETS**

**OTHERS PRESENT** April Marshall | Sherri Walden | Chris Doyle – Owen Sound Harmony Centre | Linda Hawkins – Owen Sound Harmony Centre | Pat Butler | Ed Hotchkiss

- 1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** – None.
- 2. DELEGATION** – Chris Doyle & Linda Hawkins, Board Members – Owen Sound Harmony Centre

The Harmony Centre story started in the fall of 2011. Two aspects that came together in the community prompted the development. The Owen Sound DIA identified the need for a soup kitchen in the downtown core and the former Church became available for purchase.

A group of individuals came together to consider the facility for their ongoing organization's needs as a permanent home and/or office space. Groups that were key to starting the organization included Georgian Bay Children's Choir, Georgian Bay Concert Choir and the community soup kitchen (Oshare).

A private mortgage holder was acquired to purchase the building. A board of directors was formed to create the not for profit organization. It was started without any funds. Fundraising is an annual reality, with the need to host multiple fundraising events. Grants and financial partners have been key.

In the beginning the soup kitchen was the major tenant and other groups paid what they could afford. The soup kitchen has since relocated to a larger space. Harmony Centre had to reconsider the 'pay what they could afford' model.

The centre has revised their rental policies to address financials and secure revenues. Rental policies / rates include for profit, not for profit and a subsidy program for not for profit organizations.

The board of directors is a working board of up to 12 members with defined positions and tasks.

Their current challenges are maintaining the building infrastructure and the upgrades that are required (building sustainability), as well as securing groups that benefit from communal use of the shared spaces.

Sources of revenue are fundraising, rentals and grants. They do not receive funding from their local municipality. Revenue generated by year is approximately \$78,000 (2018-2019). User fees account for approximately \$55,000.

Current permanent tenants include Big Brothers Big Sisters, two choirs, the Sustainability Network and a performing artist.

The key to the creation of the Harmony Centre project was assessing the needs of the community and inviting various organizations to envision what could occur in the space. Community buy-in was key. The delegation stressed the need to plan for the long term and establish building sustainability funds from the very start.

### **3. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 MINUTES**

**Moved by B. Morgan | Seconded by S. Sakal**

THAT the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting be approved as printed and circulated. **CARRIED.**

### **4. CULTURE DAYS REVIEW**

Good feedback has been received about the Culture section in the Post, the overall event concept and the variety of activities included. Participation in the art scavenger hunt and studio tour was low. Enthusiasm has been generated through the donut selfie frame initiative. There's excitement for the opportunity to build upon the format for future events.

### **5. CHURCH TOUR FEEDBACK**

Members were provided the opportunity to share their feedback from the committee's tour of the Baptist Church. The building tour created thoughts on all of the possibilities. The presentation during today's meeting presented realities. D. Hocking noted the timing to explore direction on this particular facility is ahead of our committee's position of priorities. The need to focus on furthering a needs assessment and plan first was discussed.

### **6. BRANDING & ATTRACTIONS CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

A. Marshall confirmed that the youth streams of the campaign have been discussed with Launch Pad staff and board members to ensure that there is capacity and that the campaign is in line with their direction, with Launch Pad being the leading partner. It was discussed that approving and promoting the campaign brand will be role of Cultural Roundtable committee, with thoughts to leverage it as the overall brand for the roundtable's associated efforts.

### **7. MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

An ad was placed in the October 1, 2020 edition of the Post to promote member recruitment. The deadline to apply is October 23<sup>rd</sup> for interested individuals to submit an application.

## 8. FUTURE PRIORITIES

Priorities that the committee established at the March 2020 meeting were reviewed:

- Building Awareness & Network Opportunities (I.e., Culture Days)
- Cultural Space – initial investigation & research
- Framework for incenting arts and cultural initiatives & programs
- Assets inventory / map (will be part of Brand Campaign)

Committee members were asked for input on possible ideas to deliver our priorities in our new reality. Virtual webinars to offer information sessions for arts and culture organizations (I.e., guest speakers, creative event planning, creating excitement during challenging times, new resident online information session to highlight organizations) were discussed to further our building awareness and networking opportunities efforts.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Library will be implementing an online donation initiative October 13 to 24 in place of the Art Gala that was planned for October.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by B. Morgan**

THAT the meeting adjourned at 11.25 am.

11. **NEXT MEETING** | Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 10:00 am

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Committee Chair

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April Marshall, Economic Development Manager