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Culture & Arts Commission

Somersworth Cultural Commission

One Government Way, Somersworth, NH 03878

Somersworth Cultural Commission meeting on 6 June 2018: 1st draft

Present:

Martin P Dumont Sr, Chair
Dana Hilliard, Mayor
Nancie Cameron, City Councilor
Rick Michaud, City Councilor
Celeste Feren
Jenne Holmes
George Poulin
Thomas Poulin
Pius Charles Murray, Secretary

Agenda & Minutes

I. Call to Order: At 6:00pm by the Chair.

The Chair introduced and warmly welcomed Thomas Poulin as the newest member of the Cultural Commission as its Student Representative. The Chair also congratulated Rick Michaud on his recent election as City Councilor for Ward 5.

II. Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the 2 May 2018 meeting as submitted was made by Councilor Cameron and seconded by Councilor Michaud. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business:

A. Thetford Mines (Ms. Feren; Ms Holmes):

At the Chair's request, Ms. Feren reported that since no response has been received from the Mayor of Thetford Mines to the invitation to attend the Children's International Festival the subcommittee assumed that neither the Mayor of Thetford Mines nor a delegation would attend. Concerning the Student Exchange, Ms. Feren stated that both she and Ms. Holmes would meet perhaps as soon as next week to start hammering out the myriad details to make that happen.

B. Student Report:

At the Chair's request, Mr. Thomas Poulin reported that a new Tunisian student was welcomed.

The Mayor suggested organizing a videotaping project which could be filmed in either the High School or Middle School in which the various ethnic communities represented by students could identify themselves and say something like "I am a Hilltopper" in their language. Flashed in the background could be some pictorial representation of each student's country of origin. This could be aired on Channels 22 and 95; to Mr. Thomas Poulin's inquiry about when this would happen, the Commission's consensus was during Fall 2018 when school re-opened for the new academic year. Mr. Thomas Poulin and Ms. Feren volunteered to co-ordinate with the new High School principal.

The Mayor also suggested that students be identified who could read *A Clue for Somersworth* in French and English for videotape broadcast. Ms. Feren said she hoped to have a recommendation next week for the Mayor's suggestion.

The Chair suggested publishing a monthly update on the developing relationship between Thetford Mines and Somersworth.

C. Flag Raisings:

Councilor Michaud reported one more flag raising ceremony in June 2018: (a) June 22nd the Quebec Provincial flag for *St Jean Baptiste* Day. The ceremony will start at 4:00 pm at Citizens Place. All are invited.

The Chair reported on objections received allowing the raising of the Service Credit Union flag for its Tenth Anniversary serving Somersworth. The Chair said in his remarks at the City Council he defended this decision by stating how dedicated Service Credit Union has been to the community; whenever asked Service Credit Union has generously responded to city requests, which is why its flag was allowed to fly at Citizens Place celebrating Service Credit Union's 10th Anniversary in the city.

D. Somersworth's 125th Anniversary:

The Chair asked Ms. Holmes, the Chair of Somersworth's 125th Anniversary Commission, to report on activities coming up. Ms. Holmes informed the Cultural Commission about the 125th Gala on 10 November 2018 at the VFW; it will run from 7:00pm-11:00pm. Dress is "smart casual;" blue is the official color of Somersworth. According to Ms. Holmes's report, the DJ will play the music in a down the decades format; furthermore, the VFW has been asked to create an original blue colored drink for the occasion.

Due to an unauthorized use of the City Seal, the Chair reported that the City will develop a policy which will allow the city to regulate use of its Seal.

E. Policy Development on Flag Raisings:

The Chair reported that the proposed policy had been submitted to the City Attorney who made some tweaks. There was a discussion as to where the policy goes from the City Attorney for formal adoption. The Mayor thought that since the City Council had entrusted governance of Citizens Place (and policies thereof) to the Office of the Mayor, the Policy on Flag Raisings would not have to go to the City Council but could be adopted by the Cultural Commission. The Mayor did recommend asking the City Manager's input.

F. Cookbook:

Councilor Michaud had no report.

G. Any other Old Business.

IV. New Business:

A. Wine, Chocolate, and Cheese Tasting:

Councilor Cameron and Ms. Holmes stated that to begin formal planning they needed a date. Councilor Cameron reported that she has a contact with Lindt Chocolate; Ms. Holmes was ready to approach the VFW. The Chair recommended contacting the NH Liquor Commission for rules regarding permissions needed for such an event. Several different chocolatiers and cheese companies were discussed. In addition, identifying a liquor store which would put on a demonstration of different wines was discussed. The Commission consensus was to get more serious with planning this event in 2019 in August.

B. Miscellaneous:

1. Additional Banners

The Mayor reported that there was still money available for additional banners. The Mayor suggested having a design contest by students with "Welcome to Somersworth" in the five languages (English, French, Greek, Celtic, Italian, and Indonesian). The Commission consensus was to let the Mayor take charge of this initiative.

2. Landscaping at Citizens Place

Several alternatives were discussed to landscaping Citizens Place. In order to avoid stepping on a bed of flowers, a brick may be best. No formal decision was made.

V. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:50pm was made by Councilor Michaud and seconded by Ms. Feren. Motion passed enthusiastically.

Respectfully submitted,

Pius Charles Murray

(Mr.) Pius Charles Murray, MLS, MPA
Secretary