

## **Arts, Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee 2019-2022 End-of-Term Report**

The mandate of the Arts, Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee (ACRAC) is to advise Ottawa City Council on policy, programs and service delivery in the area of arts, recreation and culture. The Advisory Committee developed its proposed 2020-2022 workplan and submitted it to Community and Protective Services Committee on November 19, 2020, which was subsequently adopted by Council on November 25, 2020. Between April 30, 2019, and October 4, 2022, the Committee met 14 times, including 5 in-person meetings and 9 meetings by electronic participation.

The following outlines the recreational and cultural matters on which the Advisory Committee was consulted and considered information received from staff, and for which they provided advice:

### **Recreational Matters**

#### **Recreation Infrastructure Standards and Strategy – June 2019**

- The Advisory Committee discussed and provided feedback on how growth or a decrease in population may affect the availability of certain sports in communities. The Committee suggested building flexibility into the standards and offering a variety of public consultation times to accommodate various schedules.

#### **Arena Optimization Plan – October 2019**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation by staff on the background of the initiative, the consultations undertaken to date, issues under discussion and project timelines. Advisory Committee members provided feedback on issues and on opportunities to assist with resolution. The Advisory Committee also made suggestions on the possible use of future surplus arenas.

#### **Parks and Facilities Bylaw Update – February 2020**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation outlining items to be updated, added and removed from the Parks and Facilities Bylaw, asked questions on various aspects, and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document.

#### **Recreation Youth Strategy – June 2021**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation outlining the guiding principles, the focus, and the programming framework of the RCFS Youth Strategy. The Committee asked several questions and offered comments that staff noted for future consideration.

## **Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan – June 2021 / November 2021**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation that reviewed the project background, timelines and consultation processes, as well as identified some areas of consideration for the ACRAC. The Chair encouraged members to submit individual comments to the email provided in the presentation. The Advisory Committee asked several questions and offered comments that staff noted for future consideration. The Chair committed to submitting at consolidation of comments to the Community and Protective Services Committee on behalf of ACRAC.

## **Parkland Dedication Bylaw & Policies – February 2022 / June 2022**

- At their February meeting, the Advisory Committee received a detailed presentation on the background, purpose and requirement for a new Bylaw and policies. Advisory Committee members were also briefed on changes being proposed in the new Bylaw and the supporting rationale. The Advisory Committee asked questions on various aspects of the report and made suggestions for consideration by staff in the final document.
- At their June meeting, the Advisory Committee received an updated presentation on the draft recommendations being brought forward for Council approval. The Advisory Committee asked questions on various aspects of the report and made suggestions for consideration by staff in the final document and approved the following motion:
  - **On June 21, 2022, the Arts, Culture, and Recreation Advisory Committee received a presentation from City staff on the review and renewal of the Parkland Dedication Bylaw. Included within the presentation were key staff recommendations for amending the bylaw. The Advisory Committee supports the staff recommendations for amending the Bylaw and would like to specifically acknowledge that the Committee is encouraged that proposed changes, along with other policy levers at the City's disposal, may help tackle the lack of parkland available to residents in the City's core.**

## **Cultural Matters**

### **Implementation Status Report – Renewed Action Plan for Arts, Heritage and Culture (2013-2018) – June 2019**

- The Advisory Committee reviewed and commented on the draft Implementation Report presented by staff, asked questions on various aspects of the report, and made suggestions for consideration by staff in the final document.

### **Anishinabe Algonquin Nation Civic Cultural Protocol – Update – June 2019**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation on the Civic Cultural Protocol, asked questions on various aspects, and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document.

### **Vanier – Culture in Action – February 2020 / June 2022**

- At their February 2020 meeting, the Advisory Committee received a presentation on how arts and culture can help revitalize Vanier into a thriving community, asked questions on various aspects, and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document. The Advisory Committee requested that this item be added to a future agenda for an update.
- At their June 2022 meeting, the Advisory Committee received an update on the initiative, asked questions on various aspects, and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document. The Advisory Committee also approved the following motion:
  - **On June 21, 2022, the Arts, Culture, and Recreation Advisory Committee received a presentation from City staff on the consultations, results and next steps for the VANIER CULTURE IN ACTION project. The Advisory Committee supports the work staff have done thus far, and would specifically like to recognize the community consultations, the proposed initiatives and themes, and the proposed action plan and long-term projects. The Committee looks forward to the project's next steps, and remains available to advise where applicable.**

### **Commemoration and Naming Policy – June 2021**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation providing background of the project, establishing a commemoration policy advisory group, and project elements that are in scope and out of scope. The Advisory Committee asked questions on various aspects and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document.

### **Corporate Matters**

#### **Proposed 2019-2022 Term of Council Priorities – November 2019 / July 2020**

- The Committee received a presentation that provided background and an overview of the process in developing the draft Term of Council Priorities and

made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration in the final document.

- The July 2020 meeting was an update on the Department's strategic priorities and the overall Corporate Plan.

### **2020 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets – Arts, Culture and Recreation Advisory Committee – November 2019**

- The Committee received a presentation on aspects of the City of Ottawa operating and capital budget relating to recreation, cultural, and facility services. Staff outlined areas of the budget where changes were being proposed, including fee adjustments and new capital spending. The Advisory Committee asked several questions and offered comments that staff noted for future consideration. The Chair consolidated comments to share through email to Members for consensus prior to submitting to the Community and Protective Services Committee.

### **Impact of the pandemic on City services and recovery plans – July 2020**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation on the impact of the pandemic on city services, the plan for reopening of services, as well as received feedback and input from members. Members asked questions on various aspects and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration and requested specific information on a recovery fund for cultural organization and the application process.

### **Departmental Update on the Service Resumption - September 2020**

- The Advisory Committee received an update on the status of the resumption of City services. The update spoke to repurposing some recreation facilities for flu clinics and COVID-19 assessment centres. Staff noted that as a result of COVID-19 restrictions there will be reduced programming for the fall. Members asked questions and made suggestions that were noted by staff for consideration.

### **2021 DRAFT OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – November 2020**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation outlining key highlights of the 2021 draft Recreation, Culture and Facility Services operating and capital budget, including the effects the pandemic has, and will have, on operations. Members asked questions and made suggestions relating to affordability of city culture and recreation programs and supports in place to help those unable to afford registration fees, modifications to city programs during

COVID-19, capital funding to cultural facilities, and grants the city provides to the arts, recreation, and sport community.

### **Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update and Upcoming Consultations – February 2021**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation from Emergency and Protective Services staff on the proposed plan and work completed to date. Members asked questions and made suggestions relating to reducing barriers to marginalized groups, mental health concerns, cultural programming and accessibility.

### **2022 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets – November 2021**

- The Advisory Committee received a presentation outlining key highlights of the 2022 draft Recreation, Culture and Facility Services operating and capital budget. The Committee also received a presentation from the Ottawa Museum Network (OMN). The presentation touched on the city core funding, how museums engaged residents during the pandemic resulting in low physical attendance. Noting a request for the City to change its funding approach for service agreements and increase the annual capital funding equally for each community museum, review its cultural funding programs, as well as streamlining the process to renew funding agreements. The OMN was supported by representatives from 6 community museums. The Advisory Committee also heard from Arts Network Ottawa and Ottawa Arts Council on cultural and recreational funding in the budget, noting that while a 2% increase is appreciated, the budget does not speak to any additional financial support that would be dedicated to a new cultural plan. Members asked questions and made suggestions relating to the staff and delegation presentations. The Chair prepared a submission to the Community and Protective Services Committee on behalf of ACRAC.

The impact of COVID-19 dramatically changed the strategic direction of many City services, and departmental priorities, for a large portion of the 2018-2022 Term of Council. Despite its emergency response, City staff were still able to seek the guidance of the Advisory Committee, in some capacity, on eight of the eleven items highlighted as areas of interest in the 2020-2022 ACRAC workplan. Throughout this term of council, the Advisory Committee offered valued insight and input on many initiatives and continue to support the development of Arts, Culture and Recreation in the City of Ottawa.