



Community Services Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 10
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair Laura Dudas, Vice-Chair Jessica Bradley, Councillor David Brown, Councillor Marty Carr, Councillor Steve Desroches, Councillor David Hill, Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, Councillor Rawlson King, Councillor Wilson Lo, Councillor Stéphanie Plante, Councillor Ariel Troster

1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; information items not subject to discussion; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and hybrid participation details.
Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.
Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 in Community Services Committee Report 10.
The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations is 4 pm on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and the deadline to register to speak by email is 8:30 am on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.
2. Declarations of Interest
No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 CSC Minutes 9 – Tuesday, April 23, 2024**Carried**

4. Responses to Inquiries

4.1 CSC-2024-01– Social service providers with religious affiliations

5. Community and Social Services Department

5.1 Integrated Transition to Housing Strategy Update

File No. ACS2024-CSS-GEN-008 – City-wide

Clara Freire, General Manager, Community and Social Services Department, and Kale Brown, Manager, Homelessness Programs and Shelters, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Calla Barnett (Action Sandy Hill) spoke before the Committee and provided comments on the report.

Staff accepted the following directions:

Direction to staff (Councillor S. Plante)

Further to Motion No. CSC 2023-01-04 and as it relates to the Integrated Transition to Housing Strategy Update report:

That Housing and Homelessness Services staff be directed to provide an update to Committee and Council in Q4 2024 outlining the approach and anticipated timeline(s) to phase out the use of Physical Distancing Centres operating in City recreational facilities.

Direction to staff (Councillor M. Carr)

That staff within the Community Social Services Department work with the Coalition of Community Health Centres to determine the cost benefit of providing support for an increased number of income tax clinics to support the increase in individuals requiring these services; and

That staff report back on this as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy to be presented to committee in Q3 2024.

Following discussions, the Committee considered the report recommendation.

Report recommendation(s)

That the Community Services Committee recommend that Council receive the information outlined in this report.

Received

6. Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department

6.1 Municipal Commemoration and Commemorative Naming Policies

File No. ACS2024-RCF-GEN-0006 – City-wide

Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, Katie O'Sullivan, Coordinator, Strategic Support, and Nik Allison, Coordinator, Cultural Development and Initiatives, presented an overview of the report recommendations and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Maria Ricci and Lee Farnworth (Ottawa Distinguished Women), and Jonathan Paquette, spoke before the Committee and provided comments on the report.

Staff accepted the following directions:

Direction to staff (Vice-Chair J. Bradley on behalf of Councillor L. Johnson)

That Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department staff, as part of the annual reporting on the Commemorative Naming Program, outline progress on the percentage of total names that represent equity-denied communities, as described in the report: women, gender-diverse, racialized, differently abled, francophone and linguistic minority, and First Nations, Inuit and Metis voices.

Direction to staff (Councillor Kavanagh)

That Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services staff consider gender equity when appointing the membership of the Commemoration Policy Working Group.

Following discussions, the Committee considered the report recommendations.

Report recommendation(s)

That the Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. **Approve the Municipal Commemoration Policy attached as Document 1 and the new Commemorative Naming Policy as detailed in Document 3, and outlined in this report; and**
2. **Approve the Commemoration Policy Working Group Terms of Reference attached as Document 2; and**
3. **Delegate the authority to the General Manager of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS), in consultation with the General Manager responsible for the asset being commemoratively named, to approve minor commemorative naming applications that primarily have local or ward interest; and**
4. **Delegate the authority to the General Manager of RCFS to make minor administrative amendments to the Municipal Commemoration and Commemorative Naming policies including adding to the list of eligible assets for commemoration, and to make minor edits to commemorative names approved by Council or under delegated authority to account for minor errors such as spelling, punctuation, or military abbreviations.**

Carried

6.2 Vanier Culture in Action Cultural Revitalization Plan

File No. ACS2024-RCF-GEN-0004 – City-wide

Committee took a brief recess from 12:00 to 12:14 pm, then considered this item upon reconvening.

Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Committee received a letter from Suzanne Lépine, dated June 25, and a copy is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

The following members of the public spoke before the Committee and provided comments on the report:

- Diane Reardon
- Chris Greenshields (Vanier Community Association)
- Hélène Cayer
- Marie-Andrée Martel
- Nathalie Carrier (Vanier BIA)
- Suzanne Lépine (slides on file)

Staff accepted the following direction:

Direction to staff (Councillor S. Plante)

That, after the Vanier Culture in Action working group is established, staff work with the community, designate lead departments, and identify the appropriate dated timelines in years to undertake the measures proposed under the Vanier Culture Report, for consideration for funding in future budgets.

Following discussions, the Committee considered the report recommendation.

Report Recommendation

That the Community Services Committee recommend that Council approve the Vanier Culture in Action Plan.

Carried

7. Office of the City Clerk

7.1 Status Update – Community Services Committee Inquiries and Motions for the period ending June 14, 2024

File No. ACS2024-OCC-CCS-0062 – City-wide

Report Recommendation

That the Community Services Committee receive this report for information.

Received

8. In Camera Items

There were no *in camera* items.

9. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

10. Inquiries

10.1 CSC-2024-03 – City of Ottawa Public Art Program

Submitted by Councillor W. Lo:

The City of Ottawa's Public Art Program was created at amalgamation by combining the art collections of the former Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and 11 former municipalities. According to the city's Public Art Policy, the program, among other things, fosters awareness of Ottawa's visual art history, provides opportunities for artists across Ottawa's full diversity, and promotes Ottawa's artists.

The city's collection includes various types of visual art acquired and trusted to the city through commission, purchase, and donation. The collection is held in trust for the city's residents and is a major asset requiring professional stewardship, care, maintenance, and conservation. The Public Art Program also operates display spaces at some municipal facilities and throughout public realm, including commissions through major capital projects, and much of their collection is also displayed in municipal facilities and offices, including at City Hall.

On the other hand, the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG) exhibits and promotes regional art within various contexts and includes programming to reach participants of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. In fact, the OAG was created by a grassroots group of artists who "fought to have a gallery that presented and collected the art of our region, so that our artists could represent the City of Ottawa to the nation and to the world." Further, the OAG states visitors can expect to experience "a shared sense of pride in the cultural contributions of artists from the Ottawa-Gatineau region."

Although art is a positive contributor in every respect and is stronger with diversity, the local arts scene is often challenged by existing in the shadow of the national arts scene. Interestingly, Arts Network Ottawa and the Ottawa Arts Council announced their merger in October 2023, expected to launch as a new arts service organisation in 2025, with a primary stated goal to "create a new, unified organization advancing the arts in Ottawa.

Together, [the new organisation] will bring a stronger voice to our arts community.”

Given the similarities between the missions of the City of Ottawa’s Public Art Program and the Ottawa Art Gallery, to celebrate and preserve local and regional art, there may exist an opportunity for the two organizations to combine into a single strong and unified entity to continue advancing their goals. An argument can be made for the former to be merged into the latter to shrink the municipal portfolio while allowing the Public Art Program to operate in a purely arts-focused environment.

Given the above, staff are requested to provide responses to the following:

1. What are the differences between the respective mandates and missions of the City of Ottawa’s Public Art Program and the Ottawa Art Gallery (OAG)?
2. What is the operating expense of the Public Art Program and the monetary value of the public art collection?
3. Have there ever been discussions about or attempts at combining the Public Art Program into the OAG? If so, what was the reason behind the decision ultimately taken?
4. What benefits, risks, and other considerations would there be administratively, operationally, and financially for the city if such a decision were to be considered?
5. If the city’s Public Art Program was merged with the OAG, what collective bargaining implications might there be?
6. How would a merger of the Public Art Program into the OAG affect the strength and unity of the voice for local and regional art in Ottawa?
7. Provide responses to questions 3 to 6 in the reverse scenario—acquiring/absorbing the OAG into the city’s Public Art Program.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.

E. Pelot, Committee Coordinator

Councillor L.Dudas, Chair