

CITY OF LONDON
CREATIVE CITIES TASK FORCE
NOTES FROM MEETING 01

Meeting held on October 7, 2004 at 4:04 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

PRESENT:

Task Force Members: Controller G. Hume (Chair), Councillors J. Bryant and C. Miller, J. Adams, C. Bryan, J. Glaser, P. Hoffer, C. Kehoe, G. Kerhoulas, J. Nicholson, B. Ohl, M. Sinclair, M. Williamson, J. Winston, R. Wood, L. Zajac

Working Group Members: A. Cohen (Chair), T. Adkin, A. Caxaj, R. Gloor, A. Halwa, D. Harvey, B. Meehan, V. Stasiuk, L. Wall, J. White

ALSO PRESENT:

T. Johnson, R. Armistead, J.M. Fleming, S. Keeping, J. Purser (clerk)

1.
Disclosures

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

2.
Welcome
and
introductions

Welcoming remarks from the task force Chair. Controller Hume thanked everyone for agreeing to participate. He reminded everyone that task force meetings are open to the media and to the public. Controller Hume went on to describe his expectation of the Creative Cities Task Force; that it will write a vibrant, living Action Plan for London City Council, for the City Hall administration, for London's business and cultural communities and for the broader community. The Action Plan will encourage creativity and innovation in London.

Each member of the Task Force and the Working Group had an opportunity to introduce themselves and to make a few remarks.

Controller Hume indicated the Working Group will focus initially on developing key contacts and producing an inventory of London's cultural facilities and resources. The Working Group will assess cultural governance and infrastructure in London, help develop benchmarking with other municipalities and work on legislation and policies.

3.
Organizational
Matters

Copies of the City of Toronto's Culture Plan for the Creative City booklet were made available for the task force and working group members.

The Chair stated that the Creative Cities Task Force will meet every second Thursday until Christmas.

4.
Presentations

Tom Johnson, Director of Management Support, Audit and Risk presented the Strategic Priorities of Council.

John M. Fleming, Manager Land Use Planning Policy, Planning, made a presentation on "A Strategic Understanding of Growth in London".

5.
Discussion

Some of the remarks made during this discussion period were as follows:

J. Winston suggested the task force should think nationally instead of internationally in obtaining cultural status.

D. Harvey has taken the three questions to her board for discussion.

A. Cohen suggested that the task force needs to know what is being spent on culture in London, and that the numbers are difficult to obtain.

Councillor Miller suggested that we need to laugh and to lighten up as a community and that the task force should put the 3 questions on the City's web site.

Controller Hume stated the task force needs to discuss how to involve the public; through the web site or perhaps through public meetings.

Councillor Bryant suggested the task force may need to hold public meetings. Controller Hume requested S. Keeping, Manager of Corporate Communications to look into the possibility of obtaining a web page and email address for the task force.

P. Hoffer recommended getting input from 15-25 year olds and that the task force may first have to tweak the questions.

Controller Hume suggested the task force should get out to the Richard Ivey School of Business and to Fanshawe College to speak with students.

J. Adams suggested using alternative media to communicate with the public.

C. Bryan recommended the task force should examine and review what other cities have done.

Controller Hume mentioned that there is a creative city web site on the internet and there is an upcoming creative cities conference to be held in Regina.

C. Bryan recommended the task force should look at what Vancouver is doing as an example and should look at other cities beyond North America.

Controller Hume suggested that J. Wallace from the LEDC should be asked to address the task force.

J. Winston spoke about the need for a high blend mix of technology and opportunities and he mentioned the RIM company in Waterloo as an example. He stated that London does not have the right mix or an exciting enough environment to attract creative people.

M. Williamson spoke about refugee immigration in London and that London is not attracting enough skilled labour, entrepreneurs or investors.

6.
Next Meeting

Thursday October 21, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Councillor's Lounge.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

