THE MUSE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

February 27, 2025 - 4:30 pm - Lake of the Woods Museum Board Room

PRESENT: Charito Gallivan, Karen Ingebrigtson, Cheryl Mosindy, Kirsten Fair, Reid Thompson, Lisa Lyle
REGRETS: Robert Bulman, Lindsay Koch, Hannah Edie

Introduction of new Muse Board Member - Karen Ingebritson
Board members introduced themselves and offered words of welcome

1 CALL TO ORDER
Lisa Lyle called the meeting to order at 16:36
Land Acknowledgement was read

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING
Moved by Kirsten Fair, seconded by Reid Thompson that the agenda for the meeting of February 27, 2025 be approved as presented.
Carried.

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
Nil

4 KNOWLEDGE OF FRAUD AND LEGAL MATTERS
Nil

5 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
Moved by Cheryl Mosindy, seconded by Charito Gallivan that the minutes of the January 30, 2025 meeting be approved as presented.
Carried.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Nil

7 FINANCIAL

7.1 Operating Budget vs Actuals for Art Centre and Museum for January
- There was an explanation of the technical issues we are having with our accounting software. The former accounting software tech has left to be the treasurer in Dryden, there is a relearning process.
- There was a brief discussion about the Artsvest sponsorship programme, because the $4000 cheque arrived for the Art Centre in January. We hope to apply to be in that programme again.
- The Artsvest discussion led to a discussion around sponsored attendance, and specifically sponsored attendance over March Break.
- The conversation quickly turned to discussion about the potential of a strike and whether the Museum and Art Centre would be closed in the event of a strike.

- Staff have gotten conflicting messages related to what will happen in the event of a strike
- most recently it seems that the buildings will be open as regular, but also that one or more staff members will be re-assigned.
- There is a possibility that some Rec Centre managers could be working out of the Museum building. They asked if they could run the March Break camp from the Museum building. Between lack of space, current exhibits, and overall uncertainty that request was declined.
- Board members expressed frustration at the lack of clarity in the situation, and expressed that the building should not close without Board approval.
- Reid Thompson will follow up with a letter to city admin on behalf of the Board asking for clarification on the situation and the Board's role in the matter.

7.2 December 2024 expenses - Museum and Art Centre

There were few expenses in January.

Moved by Reid Thompson, seconded by Cheryl Mosindy that the ~~December~~ January expenses for the Lake of the Woods Museum in the amount of $3,884.87 be approved.
Carried.
Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Kirsten Fair that the ~~December~~ January expenses for the Douglas Family Art Centre in the amount of $10,747.75 be approved.
Carried.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

9 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

9.1 Capital Expenditure for Planning

Moved by Cheryl Mosindy, and seconded by Karen Ingebritson that the Muse Board recommends to Kenora City Council that funds be made available in the 2026 Capital Budget to support design and planning for the renewal of the front of the Museum building.
Discussion: The front of the building, and specifically the steps need to be replaced. This is an opportunity to recreate the front of the Museum building to be accessible and inclusive for all (IE one front door for everyone), and perhaps increase our programming/exhibit area. The point would be to have design work done so that we know what the scope/cost of the project is in order to look for sources of funding.
Carried.

Discussion: Category "A" gallery application, and specifically Class "A" environmental issues with the DFAC building.
- There was a discussion about the existential crisis that is the lagging environmental of the Art Centre building. Items currently on loan will not be gifted until such time as the clarification is achieved, and the clock is ticking. This is the #1 priority of Muse and City staff.
- The issue around the humidifiers was discussed. Everything else seems to be working well, but this is the last sticky wicket to get sorted out.
- The end result was a motion regarding taking a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to the HVAC system. The Board would like to see some sort of regular maintenance scheduled enacted that would see the issues caught before they torpedo our 12 month totals.

Moved by Reid Thompson, seconded by Karen Ingebritson that the Muse Board recommends to City of Kenora Facilities that a robust HVAC maintenance/inspection schedule be determined and carried out in the Art Centre.
Carried.

9.2 Muse Board Bylaw
Moved by Kirsten Fair, seconded by Charito Gallivan that the Muse Board recommends that Kenora City Council approve the updated By-Law Respecting The Muse Board to include the necessary language around certified cultural property in support of a future application for Category 'A' Gallery certification
Carried.

10 DECISION ITEMS

10.1 Advisory Committee Appointments
Moved by Cheryl Mosindy, seconded by Karen Ingebritson that Lorelei Van Belleghem be appointed to the Museum Advisory Committee for a second two year term
Carried.

Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Reid Thompson that Lesley Ratchford be appointed to the Museum Advisory Committee for a second two year term
Carried.

Moved Kirsten Fair, Karen Ingebritson that Erin O'Hara be appointed to the Art Centre Advisory Committee for a second two year term
Carried.

10.2 Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
Moved by Charito Gallivan, seconded by Reid Thompson that the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Muse Advisory Committees delete point 2.2 in the Indigenous Advisory Committee TOR, and point 2.4 in the Museum and Art Centre Advisory Committee TOR.

Discussion: This section of the TORs asks that any advisory committee member be approved by the Manager of Community Services. That position no longer exists, and since the TORs were written in 2020 Kenora City Council has empowered the Muse Board to add or subtract from Advisory Committee TORs as they see fit. These committees are advisory in nature, and this clause is unnecessary.
Carried.

11 DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 NARM Reciprocal Agreement
Discussion: It was discussed that NARM is the North American Reciprocal Museum Association. It is a programme that allows Museums and Galleries to offer its members reciprocal membership benefits to partner institutions. At other galleries, including the WAG, it is used as an incentive to try to get members to join higher tiers of membership, which is how we will be using it. The cost is low ($200USD/year) but it might allow the Muse to encourage some of our patron members to become Sustaining ($210+) members

12 INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Directors Report

- Sophie has been in touch with April White about the Muse acting as the travelling agent for Herring People. We are looking at opportunities to partner with artists to create small to medium sized traveling exhibits for galleries like us. There is a niche in the market there that the Muse could slide into.
- There was a health update on Rick. He is doing well and taking it easy.
- We got word on Tuesday that our OAC Northern Arts Application in support of *Keep Yourself Alive: Jim Oskineegish* was approved at a value of $9,000
- There was a brief discussion on Digital Asset Management
- There was a question about the status of the upcoming Metis Treaty #3 adhesion exhibition. After speaking with both the Indigenous and Museum advisory committees the decisions was made by staff that we would host the exhibit as a community feature exhibit.
- There was a discussion on the role of the Board in the decision making process when exhibits may be controversial.

12.2 Strategic Plan Report Card

- A few highlights were mentioned, including the possibility of using any amount over and above the budgeted amount of the Legacy Fund to add to the Art Centre Exhibition/Collection Fund.

12.3 Museum Advisory Committee Minutes

- circulated

12.4 DAM & Museums Report

- circulated

13 CORRESPONDENCE

- Nothing other than the letter from OAC about the in support of *Keep Yourself Alive: Jim Oskineegish* exhibition.

14 IN CAMERA SESSION

15 OTHER BUSINESS

16 NEXT BOARD MEETING

At 4:30 in the Museum Board Room on March 27th, 2025

17 ADJOURNMENT - Moved by Kirsten Fair, seconded by Charito Gallivan that the meeting be adjourned at 17:50