



City Council Committee Report

Date: 07 June 2011

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Municipal Cultural Plan Steering Committee

Re: Report and Recommendation re Municipal Cultural Plan

Recommendation:

THAT Council adopts the Municipal Cultural Plan dated May 31, 2011

Background:

In 2006, the City of Kenora hosted a regional Municipal Cultural Planning Forum. The purpose of the Forum was to promote the importance of municipal cultural planning and hear about best practices from other jurisdictions. In Kenora, the Forum was complementary to the work being done with the Downtown Revitalization Plan, specifically the preservation of the heritage buildings in the downtown core. The Forum led to the establishment of the Kenora Heritage Committee and the creation of the Community Improvement Plan for the Harbourtown Centre area.

The Forum identified the importance of arts, culture, heritage, downtown revitalization, and special events as economic drivers in a community and critical to the success of communities seeking to diversify their economy and rely more heavily on attracting new residents and visitors to their community.

From 2006 to 2010, Kenora has seen rapid growth and increased public awareness of the arts and cultural sectors.

In 2010, the City of Kenora received a grant from the Ministry of Culture to complete a Municipal Cultural Plan. The purpose of the Plan was to document Kenora's current cultural assets and identify ways in which to facilitate the further growth and development of arts, culture and heritage activities in the community.

The current state of culture in the community was described this way:

"Kenora is a vibrant, diverse and sustainable community that values arts, culture and heritage and our relationship with the natural environment. We work collaboratively to nurture and celebrate local talent and welcome others to share experiences in this place of beauty and rich history."

The development of the Municipal Cultural Plan was administered by a steering committee comprised of the following members:

- Jennifer Findlay, EDO
- Tara Rickaby, Planning
- Lori Nelson, Museum
- Erin Roussin, Library
- Sharon Smith, Council Representative
- Lisa Moncrief & Nancy Tulloch, Ministry of Culture Representatives

The Plan was developed over several months with input from Mayor and Council, key municipal staff, over 100 surveys completed on-line, high school focus group and public workshops. Feedback was also received through the MCP website and facebook sites and promoted through stakeholder groups.

The Plan includes recommendations in 10 key areas:

1. Raising the Profile of Culture
2. Integrating Culture into Planning
3. Improving Communication and Promotion
4. Providing Coordination and Support for Community Organizations
5. Addressing Cultural Facility and Gathering Space Needs
6. Maintaining and Developing Aboriginal Partnerships
7. Expanding Lifelong Learning & Professional Development Opportunities
8. Fostering and Attracting Cultural Industries
9. Building Cultural and Environmental Tourism
10. Investing in Cultural Development

The recommendations contained in the report build on work already being done in this sector. It is recommended that the City of Kenora create an implementation committee comprised of representatives from the municipality and the public.

Budget: None in 2011

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Updates to Facebook and Website pages and further communications plan developed by Implementation Committee.