



The Corporation of the Town of Essex
Arts, Culture and Tourism Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025, 5:00 pm
60 Fairview Ave W, Essex, ON N8M 1B6

Present: Chair - Maguire, Grant
Vice Chair - Meloche, Richard
Councillor - Allard, Brad, Ward 3
Councillor - Hammond, Rodney, Ward 4
Member - Atkinson, Nicole
Member – Freele, Peter

Regrets: Member - Quinn-Ouellette, Diane

Absent: Member – Thunnaru Kandi, Devika

Also Present: Cynthia Cakebread, Manager, Recreation and Culture
Trevor Martin, Recording Secretary

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Please contact the Clerk's Office at clerks@essex.ca or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations (comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples), and of the Huron-Wendat Peoples. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.

4. Adoption of Published Agenda

4.1 Arts, Culture and Tourism Meeting Agenda for April 2, 2025

ACT25-04 -001

Moved By Richard Meloche, Vice Chair
Seconded By Nicole Atkinson

That the published agenda for the April 2, 2025 Arts, Culture and Tourism Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Arts, Culture and Tourism Minutes for January 8, 2025

ACT25-04 -002

Moved By Councillor Allard

Seconded By Peter Freele

That the minutes of the Arts, Culture and Tourism meeting held January 8, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 Tune Up the Parks

The Committee discussed concerns expressed by members of the community regarding performer compensation. After discussion, the Committee agreed to maintain the focus on attracting local amateur artists rather than professional performers and to continue to encourage gratuities for performers from audience members. Additionally, the Committee agreed to provide a monetary stipend to performing groups for all performances moving forward to assist with travel costs.

ACT25-04 -003

Moved By Peter Freele

Seconded By Nicole Atkinson

That the Committee agrees to provide a monetary stipend valued at \$50 to assist performers with travel costs for all Tune Up the Parks performances moving forward.

Carried

6.2 Committee Events and Projects

The Committee reviewed events planned for 2025 and decided to postpone the Downtown Essex Tea Party. The events currently planned are:

- Tune Up the Parks - July/August
- Glow Ride - May
- Teddy Bear Picnic - September
- Halloween Spooktacular - October
- Essex Holiday Lights Tour - December/January
- Noon Year's Eve - January

The Committee then discussed art and tourism projects and following the discussion supported moving forward with:

- Restoration of Our Rural Roots located on the back of 61 Talbot Street North
- Installing butterfly benches at locations to be determined

ACT25-04 -004

Moved By Richard Meloche, Vice Chair
Seconded By Peter Freele

That the Committee supports using Committee funds to restore the Our Rural Roots Mural located behind 61 Talbot Street North.

Carried

ACT25-04 -005

Moved By Nicole Atkinson
Seconded By Peter Freele

That the Committee supports using Committee funds to proceed with the butterfly bench program.

Carried

7. Committee Membership Changes

7.1 Resignation of Tracy Armstrong

Cynthia Cakebread, Manager, Recreation and Culture notified the Committee that Tracy Armstrong has resigned from the Committee.

7.2 Appointment of Devika Thunnaru Kandi

Cynthia Cakebread, Manager, Recreation and Culture, notified the Committee that Council has appointed Devika Thunnaru Kandi to the Committee.

8. Quorum Rules Review and Electronic Meetings

Trevor Martin, Recording Secretary reviewed quorum rules with the Committee and reminded Committee members that they are permitted to attend up to four meetings per year electronically.

9. New Business

9.1 Leave of Absence Request - Diane Quinn-Ouellette

ACT25-04 -006

Moved By Nicole Atkinson
Seconded By Peter Freele

That the Committee approves a Leave of Absence for Diane Quinn-Ouellette until September 2025.

Carried

10. Adjournment

ACT25-04 -007

Moved By Councillor Allard
Seconded By Peter Freele

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:47PM.

Carried

11. **Future Meetings**

May 14, 2025 at 5:00PM
Location: Essex Centre Sports Complex - Barnett Meeting Room

Chair

Recording Secretary