



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

January 14, 2026, 5:00 pm  
Barnett Room, Essex Centre Sports Complex, 60 Fairview Ave W, Essex, ON N8M 1B6

Present: Chair - Atkinson, Nicole  
Vice Chair - Meloche, Richard  
Councillor - Allard, Brad, Ward 3 (Electronic)  
Councillor - Hammond, Rodney, Ward 4  
Member - Maguire, Grant

Regrets: Member - Freele, Peter  
Member - Quinn-Ouellette, Diane  
Member - Raji, Kemmy

Also Present: Sarah Newton, 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](mailto:clerks@essex.ca) or 519-776-7336 extension 1100 or 1101.

**1. Call to Order**

Grant Maguire, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

**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 January 14, 2026**

**ACT26-01 -001**

Moved By Richard Meloche, Vice Chair

Seconded By Nicole Atkinson

**That** the published agenda for the January 14, 2026 Arts, Culture and Tourism Meeting be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

## **5. Adoption of Minutes**

### **5.1 Arts, Culture and Tourism Minutes for December 10, 2025**

#### **ACT26-01 -002**

Moved By Councillor Hammond

Seconded By Richard Meloche, Vice Chair

**That** the minutes of the Arts, Culture and Tourism meeting held December 10, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

## **6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026**

### **6.1 Election of Chair**

#### **ACT26-01 -003**

Moved By Richard Meloche

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** Nicole Atkinson be elected as Chair of the Arts, Culture and Tourism Committee for 2026.

**Carried**

### **6.2 Election of Vice Chair**

#### **ACT26-01 -004**

Moved By Grant Maguire

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** Richard Meloche be elected as Vice Chair of the Arts, Culture and Tourism Committee for 2026.

**Carried**

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **7.1 Committee Events and Projects Update**

Sarah Newton, Manager, Recreation and Culture informed the Committee that there was a slight delay but that the Our Rural Roots mural panels should be installed soon. The Committee also discussed the restoration of the Sports in Essex mural.

Nicole Atkinson, Chair, shared an update on the Butterfly Park Benches Project including design and pricing information. She noted that the cost has increased slightly due to increased steel pricing. The Committee also discussed potential locations for installation in each ward.

### **7.2 Downtown Essex Tea Party Planning**

The Committee discussed a few planning items related to the event and agreed to continue planning at the next meeting.

### **7.3 2026 Committee Meeting Schedule**

**ACT26-01 -005**

Moved By Grant Maguire

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the Arts, Culture and Tourism Committee regular meetings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of every month for 2026

**Carried**

**8. New Business**

There were no items discussed under New Business.

**9. Adjournment**

**ACT26-01 -006**

Moved By Richard Meloche, Vice Chair

Seconded By Councillor Hammond

**That** the meeting be adjourned at 6:13 PM.

**Carried**

**10. Future Meetings**

February 11, 2026 at 5:00PM

Location: Essex Centre Sports Complex - Barnett Meeting Room

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Chair

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Recording Secretary