

HIGH ON ICE

Long-term Meeting

December, 2006

Members Present: Sue Popesku, Sonja Butts, Laurie Petrucci, Pam Clemen, Morris Holmes, Margaret Cavers May

What does the Arts Council do now:

- Sits on High on Ice Steering Committee – Arts Council coordinates Professional and Amateur Ice and Snow Sculpting as well as the Ice Playground.
 - Every two weeks
- Sits on Winter Lights Committee – reporting purposes: Elves Christmas, High on Ice activities
 - Every two weeks

Arts Council - High on Ice - Ice Carving Coordination Involves:

- Handle all registrations for professional and amateur ice carving and amateur snow sculpting.
- Create registration package working with the City
- Liaise with Amateur and Professional Sculptors and National Ice Carving Assoc.
- Assist with website
- Personal solicitation for participants
- Personal solicitation of judges and confirmation of judges.
- Orders medals
- Handles Professional carvers who work outside of the competition. (Russians who build the Ice Playground).
- Orders signage for amateur sculptors
- Provides leadership for amateur snow and ice – Angela, Wendy and Peter Vogelaar
- Organize activities/workshops related to Peter Vogelaar
- Book Peter's flight
- Liaise with Professional working sculptors regarding flights, work, accom, etc.

City - High on Ice - Ice Carving Coordination:

- Organizes High on Ice Winter Carnival
- Public Works provides support for Ice Carving
- Purchases Ice
- Steer heads sponsorship
- Books hotel rooms
- Organizes hospitality room with Arts Council
- Books caterers
- Handles advertising
- Orders ice
- Public Works provides manpower, power, ice and many other supportive roles.

- City MC's awards ceremony
- Orders awards
- Organizes accommodation for carvers
- Orders signage for Winter Carnival

Challenges for Arts Council:

- We do not have the mandate to get sponsorships to support the ice carving programs including: playground, amateur events, professional event.
- Unable to get outside funding from granting agencies/foundations to support coordination time because the High on Ice Program is a City initiative.
- No clear communication between Arts Council and City regarding sponsorship

Positive Spinoffs from organizing High on Ice:

- City support of arts programs outside of ice carving
- Space was provided by the City for the Arts Council at Sew it Yourself.
- City recognizes the value of arts in the community
- Raised the profile of the Community Arts Council in the community at large.
- City increased basic grant-in-aid for member groups
- City agreed to partner with us for Cultural Policy Development

Now that the High on Ice BC Professional Ice Carving is well underway, the Arts Council feels confident that the City of Fort St. John will facilitate and undertake all aspects of organizing the professional component of the Professional Carving Championship.

Challenges that the Arts Council have not been able to overcome:

- Organizational overlap – flights, hotel rooms, hosting, registration
- Funding for coordination – no ability to raise sponsorship to support the financial burden on the Arts Council
- One staff member is becoming too focused on one project and it is diminishing our ability to carry out our mandate in other areas.

The Arts Council is grateful to the City for the many spin-off benefits from organizing the High on Ice – Ice Carving. These spin-offs include:

- City embracing arts and culture through HOI.
- The event has promoted community arts participation
- Broaden the perception of what arts and culture mean to our community
- Brought back former residents (artist, Peter Vogelaar) to the City to mentor residents.
- Fostered the working relationship between the Arts community and the City of Fort St. John

- The event celebrates the winter and cultural opportunities that are available to residents and visitors of Fort St. John
- Exposure for the Arts Council – elevated pride and outside recognition

Recommendations;

The City of Fort St. John has done a wonderful job in facilitating the growth of ice carving in Fort St. John by providing financial, manpower and organizational support to the High on Ice BC Ice Carving Championship. The program has grown beyond the Art Council's expectations and mandate.

- It is the intent of the Fort St. John Community Arts Council to continue to serve in a consulting role to the organizational needs of the professional High on Ice BC Ice Carving Championship and Ice Playground
- The Arts Council has a mandate to serve the community of Fort St. John and would like to continue to organize and grow the amateur component of the High on Ice BC Ice Carving Championship.
- The City hires a coordinator to oversee all components of the Ice Playground and Professional Ice Carving program.