

Fort St. John Community Arts Council
Regular Meeting: February 19, 2014

Call to Order: 12:08 pm

In Attendance: Rosemary Landry, Eliza Stanford, Nancy Maxfield, Yolande Harrison, Tamara Pearson, Monica Best, Sonja Butts, Sue Popesku, Donna Bozarth, Shauneen Gibbons, Margaret May, Karla King

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Sue, Seconded by Donna to approve the agenda

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Nancy, seconded by Monica, to accept the minutes as presented.

Financial: Sonja reviewed the grant application process and outlined some of the most common problems which occur in the financial part of the application. Compared to most grant applications, ours is a very easy form and provides good practice for other grants that non-profit groups may have occasion to apply for.

The financial part of the application has two parts.

Budget:

- Best educated forecast of the revenue and expenses for the coming year.
- Budgets can be based on previous year's numbers but is only an estimate for your next fiscal year.
- Your Budget should be balance; that is, your total revenue should equal expenditure.
- Make sure you include your Arts Council request on your grant application and in your budget

Financial Statement:

- Actual numbers from the most recent complete fiscal year.
- Revenue and Expenditures will not necessarily balance in the financial statement. Totals will show the actual revenue and expenses for the year
- The financial statement should show revenue and expenses only. It should not include extra information such as bank balances.

Planning: A second planning meeting was held on February 18, 2014 to discuss the future direction and priorities of the Arts Council and how we will continue to fund the ArtsPost. We talked about funding cuts by the city for the North Peace Cultural Centre and general lack of support for the arts and cultural development. Lack of support for the Cultural Centre will negatively impact many of our member groups. The Arts Council may be able to take a role in bringing those groups together to present a united voice.

The following were suggestions for future action:

- Reminding community about the Strategic Plan and the study that was done to prepare for Arts Policy development.
- Meet with new community planner, the North Peace and Fort St. John economic development person and the Cultural Centre board of Directors to discuss what is expected of the arts sector and how we can move forward to a sustainable future.
- Holding an Arts panel discussion leading up to the municipal elections.

- Collaborative events such as the Artwalk, a possible “frame it” event at the ArtsPost, artists/performers working with Communities in Bloom and the Horticultural Society.

GROUP REPORTS

Fort St. John Film Society: The most recent film, Philomena, showed to a full theatre. We have 2 films in the next month.

GABRIELLE will be shown March 10, 2014 at 7PM at the Aurora Cinema. It is a stunningly beautiful film about a developmentally challenged young woman's quest for independence and sexual freedom. It is a film from Quebec with English sub-titles. It was Canada's nomination for a foreign film at the Oscars.

LE WEEK-END will be shown on April 14, 2014 at 7 PM at the Aurora Cinema. It is a film from the United Kingdom and is the entertaining story of the ups and downs of a romance 30 years in the making .La week-end is a barbed, funny and poignant comedy/drama

Fort St. John Dance Society: The planned Lido fundraiser has been cancelled. The society will participate at Lido shows such as Daytona and Hockey games as fundraisers.

Fort St. John Irish Dance Society: Fundraising is on-going with the Mega Lottery, Panago Pizza and a spring flower bulb sales.

Twenty dancers attend the Rince ISSS feis in Edmonton on February 8 and 9. One dancer is competing at the All Scotlands in Glasgow, three will be heading off to the World Championships in London from April 13-20th and nine will compete in the North American championships in Montreal from July 2nd to 4th.

Dnacers will attend the Beautiful BC feis in Surrey next weekend and several will go to the Feis at the Tower in Calgary on March 1 & 2. The next feis for the whole school is the Matterien Feis in the Park in Edmonton at the end of April.

Aisling Watt will be coming up to do a workshop over spring break for the kids as well as one on Labour Day weekend.

North Peace Potters' Guild: Group had a workshop with a visiting instructor over the weekend.

North Peace Music Teachers Association: The busy time of the year is coming up. There is a recital on March 9 at 2:00 at the Evangelical Mission Church. The entry deadline for the festival is on March 15 after which the program will be mad up. There will be a recital on April 5 at the Cultural Centre at 2:00 and 3:00. This is when the festival students play their pieces on stage. The music part of the festival starts on April 6.

Peace River North Festival: The festival is scheduled to run from April 6 to April 13 with the Honours Concert on the evening of April 13. The entry deadline for music is March 15. The festival syllabus can be viewed on our website: prn-performingarts.com.

Ecole Central School PAC: The Central PAC is holding a Flower Basket fundraiser through Walker Greenhouse. Flower baskets are \$35 each and will be ready by April 21.

North Peace Gymnastics Association: Gymnasts competed in competitions in Red Deer, the Lower Mainland and Quesnel, where they won 33 medals and 5 special awards. Gymnasts will also attend the provincials in Kamloops on March 15.

Federation of Canadian Artists Peace River Chapter: The group will be holding a juried show in May along with a workshop on Drawing and Printmaking.

Flying Colours: The show, *Points of View*, has been showing in Dawson Creek and will move to Fort St. John. The show opens at Peace Gallery North on March 7 at 7 pm and runs from March 8 to March 22.

Stage North: Stage North has postponed its production of Alice the Musical until later in the year; possibly May. The cast and crew are new and young and were not ready to mount the production as scheduled. Stage North is working well in their new location on the East Bypass road.

- They have applied for a grant lighting and sound equipment to make the space usable for small shows with a limited audience of 50.
- Organizing a weekend of “Try your hand at Backstage and Onstage”, a series of hands-on work stations that demonstrate mounting a production.
- The spring festival production will be directed by Ted Sloan and staged in late May
- Planning is underway for the 2014-2015 season

Peace River Zone Theatre BC: Chaired by Dale Hillman, organization is beginning for the Peace River Zone Theatre Festival, May 28 to June 1 at the North Peace Cultural Centre. Dale attended a provincial meeting of Theatre BC. All festival entries are vying for a chance to compete at Mainstage in Kamloops in July

PROGRAM REPORTS

Regional Juried Show: March 29 – April 17. The show is hosted this year by the FSJ Arts Council and the Peace Gallery North. Barb Daley will conduct a children’s journaling program with 240 children. We hope for around 80 entries. Encana has provided \$1000, \$500 and \$200 for awards. Registration is due March 7 and artwork must be delivered by March 26. See the Arts Council Website for the information package. The opening reception is Saturday, March 29 from 7 to 9 pm at Peace Gallery North. Adjudicators are Dan Arberry and Lynn Lecorre-Dallaire from Grande Prairie. Thanks to the organizing committee of Sandy Troutt, Bronwen Surerus, Barb Daley, Sue Popesku and Rosemary Landry.

Sand Sensations: Sponsorships are being sought. Jocelyn met with David Ducharme during High on Ice to begin planning for the event.

BUSINESS

Arts and Cultural Week: The BC Arts Council has suspended the grants for Arts and Culture week activities. We will still promote all activities that occur in the week of **April 20 - 26, 2014.**

Municipal Election: The Arts Council held an all candidates forum before the last municipal elections which was very well attended. Moved by Sonja, seconded by Eliza, to prepare for an all candidate forum leading up to municipal elections in November by booking a facility and preparing possible talking points to be presented to the candidates. The motion was carried.

Chamber of Commerce Magazine Ads: The Chamber of Commerce invited us to place an ad in their magazine. This would be part of our Arts Awareness program and the magazine has very good distribution. Sonja said that we have funds available for the ad as part of our Arts Awareness funding so we will go ahead and place the ad.

Member Grant Applications: Grant application forms have been distributed by e-mail to member groups. Paper copies were also available at the meeting. It was decided that the deadline for applications will be March 31 with the adjudication meeting date to be announced.

Communications and Media: The website is back on line at www.fsjarts.org. Any information about member group activities, news and achievements should be emailed to the Arts Council office and we will post it on the website. Information will also be posted on our facebook page.

Regional Arts Council: AGM was held on January 25 in Dawson Creek. Sue Popesku is the new president of the regional Arts Council and Lisa Bush is now vice-president. Pat Markin, the Executive Director of the regional council, will be retiring at the end of this year. Her part-time position will be open for a qualified person. Interviews will take place in all 6 communities of the Northeast region. A new website, Step Up BC, is available to help arts groups with leadership training and succession. Contact heather.hat@stepupbc.ca for more information. The PLRAC is a member of the Alaska Highway Initiative Society and is working toward the recognition of the Alaska Highway as a Heritage corridor for the 75th Anniversary.

AFFILIATIONS

Communities in Bloom: The city is no longer involved with Communities in Bloom. It is now associated with NEAT and the Justice Society and Fort St. John is entered again in the competition and the fee has been donated by Urban Systems. They are looking to involve people to build community capacity. The community garden will be a focal point and they are looking for arts and cultural entertainment. The Arts Council may be able to assist with a program that places banners on the light posts along prominent sections of the walking track. We may be able to involve sponsors. Talk to Sue or Karen Mason-Bennett if you wish to get involved. Karen is having a series of morning coffee meetings at Whole Wheat and Honey to discuss different aspects of the program.

Alaska Highway Tourism: Sue is on this board which is closely tied to the 2017 Alaska Highway 75th Anniversary.

Hospital Art Committee: Rosemary is on this committee. Photographs are being placed in 55 patient rooms at the new hospital. There was a call for entries and they received many submissions.

Arts & Health BC: This new provincial organization has just had its first meeting in January in Vancouver and will be assisted in development by the Arts and Health Network across Canada. Sue Popesku is on the founding board of Arts & Health BC. The BC organization will be searching for arts and health connections throughout the province and will be working closely with all the Arts Councils in BC. Arts as a preventative measure, therapeutic tool, mental health staple and more are just beginning to be explored and documented.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:18 pm

Next Meeting: March 12, 2014 at 12 noon at the ArtsPost. Special guests will be Laurie Petrucci and Jeff Meyer with School District 60 to talk about Credit in Arts.

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting June 18, 2014

Letter from NPCC Board dated June 12, 2014

Group Reports:

North Peace Potters Guild (Arlene Blair) – Potters working on the Chili Bowl fest taking place June 21st at 6 pm at the ArtsPost. piñata bashing for the kids, tickets available at ARTSPOST and the Hairbin for \$30/each.

FSJ Film Society (Karyn Guy)– we are getting new roster of movies in August with films starting to show in September.

Peace River North Performing Arts Festival (Margaret May)– 9 delegates and observers attended the Provincials in Penticton last month. We have tentatively booked the Provincials May 31 – June 4, 2016 to be held in Fort St John. It involves top performers in dance, band, vocals from across the province.

Ecole Central PAC (Sarah Friesen) – started a project to put together “buddy benches” for Central, bought 5 concrete benches from Wilsons Concrete– kids will paint and decorate them – purpose of integrating children, help children who may be isolated or lonely and prompts other children to help other children – benches ordered – on hold because of the strike. Will start up again in September.

Stage North (Sue Popesku) – They have begun developing a small stage in their jSpace on East Bypass Road on Surerus property. Money from the BC Creative Space grant of \$15,000 will be used to buy lights (LED) and sound. To be ready August 1st. The new season will be announced soon: The Princess Bride (October), Pride and Prejudice (February), and a spring show plus various smaller shows at the new stage. Received \$2000 from the Arts Council for the Community stage, city changed their mind, Stage North is requesting to see if the money could be used for the new space.

Big news: A new FoJo Festival will be August 6 to 10th at 3 different plays in 3 different venues throughout Fort St John. This is a performance art festival – shows can be 30-45 minutes long and each runs 3 times – sort of a Fringe. Accepting applications. To raise money, Stage North and The Spectacular Chair Factory – having a 48 hour garage sale to fund the festival. Sale July 18, 19,20 Please donate and spread word to all garage sales to donate left overs.

No theatre festival this year in May due to not enough plays entered. Quite a few are going to Mainstage in Kelowna in July to take part in the workshops and classes. Dale Hillman is the Zone representative and Chair of the Peace River Zone.

FSJ Dance Society (Nancy Maxfield)– The dance festival wrapped up and the dancers will be starting summer school on July 2nd. They will attend 5 days of classes and some extra time for choreography. Crystal Wills, Caralee Lamoureux, and Carmelle McKinlay will be the dance teachers for the summer school.

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting June 18, 2014

We had four dancers from our studio attend provincials in Penticton; Teneille and Takisha Johnson, Keily Stewart and Ashlyn Taylor.

Two successful recitals were held in early June and we have two graduating dancers this year; Shiau Shan Kao Phan and Erin Maxfield. Shiau Shan will be travelling to New York this summer to attend dance workshops. Both Shiau Shan and Keily Stewart won scholarships for dance classes in New York at an Edmonton festival this dance season.

A thank you card with dance picture and two recital tickets was sent to the mayor to thank the city for the arts council grant.

Kelly Nasbeth will be the new representative to the Arts Council for the FSJ Dance Society and I would like to thank her for taking on this role.

The Move Dance Studio is open for registration July 2-6 as well people can also contact the Move at [250-787-5122](tel:250-787-5122) to do registration as well.

Flying Colours (Rosemary Landry) – holding various workshops in the summer.

FSJ Irish Dance Society (Shauneen Gibbons by email) – End of year recital was last Wednesday night! It was a full house in the theatre and the girls put on a really great performance. We have received lots of positive feedback and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The recital was our last fundraiser for the year and we raised over \$5600! Two companies; MNP and Surerus Pipeline are sponsoring our dancers heading to Nationals with donations of \$500 each, which will help offset some of the travel costs.

We are currently raising money for a new set of team dresses for the school.

We have 9 dancers who will be heading off to North Americans in Montreal from July 2-6th. They are: Patricia Robertson (U21 Ladies), Lindsay Surerus (Girls U17), Courtney Cowger (Girls U14), Jordan Crawford (Girls U12), Emalee Chapple (Girls U10), Nevaeh Mohninger (Girls U10), Melodie Kemp (Girls U9), Maisie Thomas (Girls U9), Naia Gibbons (Girls U8).

With the exception of about a dozen dancers who are still attending practices for North Americans and an upcoming feis in Vancouver this weekend....dance has concluded for the summer.

Aisling Watt will be coming up to do a workshop over the Labour Day long weekend for the kids and to prepare dancers for the World qualifiers taking place in Calgary in November.

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting June 18, 2014

Business:

- **Response from Cultural Centre Board** – Karyn read the letter out loud at the meeting. Discussion followed. FSJCAC Board still plan on working with the NPCC Board. The city has some major concerns and will be meeting with NPCC Board. Karyn moved, Nancy seconded. Motion to include this letter and the two documents sent to NPCC Board in the minutes. FSJCAC has a file of user groups testimonials including dates, etc.
- **Nominations Committee** for the AGM – No one has put forward their name at this time.
- **Community Stage** – Sue made a motion, seconded by Karyn. The funds of \$2000 previously given for stage related development be given to Stage North for the new stage being planned. Carried. Letters will be sent to the 2 businesses whose donation was for stage development.
- **Unique Calendars** – ordering 2015 Calendars – A project of the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council – The calendar features photographs of chosen local artworks from the 2014 Regional Juried Show held in Fort St John in April, 2014.

Program Reports:

- **Patron/Arts Advocacy Program** – we have 120 people in the community who have provided sponsorship for the flower pot program. The FSJCAC sent out letters asking people to continue to support the FSJCAC as arts advocates. Funds flowing in, so far collected \$3750. The patrons receive a once-a-month email about whats happening in the arts in the community. We should nurture these patrons and continue to do so.
- **Frame It** – held on May 31st - big thanks to Eliza S, Tanya S, Holly U – the children who attended had fun framing their artwork. We will do it again in the Fall, we still have lots of frames.
- **Scholarships/Bursaries** – has been set up with college and high school – need to establish a committee, say 4 people and look at ways to increase the fund – from \$200 to \$1000 – Connie/Sue/Connie D/Rosemary will form the committee.
- **SAND** – move in July 18th – knock down last year's sculptures July 19th – prep on 20th and 21st and event to take place from July 28th to August 3rd at Peace Island Park, Taylor

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting June 18, 2014

5 pro carvers confirmed, all are World class – 3 have been before: David Ducharme and Peter Vogelaar of BC, Canada, Dan Belcher of Missouri USA, Susanne Ruseler of Utrecht, Netherlands, Ilya Filimontsev, Moscow, Russia

Theme this year is “Cowboy Country” – carvers are doing a bucking bronco, saloon, cowgirl. One carver will do logos/ Sell 3 backsides facing the Alaska Highway sponsorship available and one available on the other side. \$21,000 so far, need \$50,000 – confident will get the funds – the “buzz” is heating up.

Decided to not do the music stage this year, will engage with local musicians and play their CDS at the event.

3 amateur teams coming from GP, very excited. All pros will be here on the Sunday and they will mentor with the amateurs. Great collaboration with GP, possibly some free marketing in GP. Will be doing family comp on Aug 2nd, one day during the gold panning weekend – good collaboration with gold panning event. District of Taylor has given us a 5 year window to keep building this event. Have secured \$101,000 of in-kind donations and the businesses want to continue with in-kind donations, including \$10,000 of free wi-fi by TNT Communications and Nitrous.

- **Best Pies for Fall Fair** – we have the booth again and asking for donations of homemade pies – must be fruit and berry, not cream or egg based pies – get in contact with the Arts Council – pies can be frozen – pies do go over well at the Fall Fair – nice little fundraiser and promotion for the Arts Council.

Grants:

- City Grant submitted (thank you Margaret) expecting to make City presentation sometime in July. Please email to FSJCAC pictures of activities and tell us what you did with the city money

Reminders:

- No general meetings in July/August. Board meeting September 9, 2014.
Annual General Meeting September 17, 2014 at 7 PM at the ArtsPost – membership due at that time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

Communications and Media:

- FSJ Magazine – 2 whole pages on the Arts – dance, etc, City of Fort St John – not a lot about the arts, but about SAND Sensations. Alaska Highway magazine – ½ page for SAND – paid out of Gaming funds.

FORT ST JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
Minutes of Regular Meeting June 18, 2014

- TownWall.ca magazine - www.townwall.ca you can post yourself - goes to print every 2 months - get your posters in by June 20th for July & August.
- BC Musicians mag. and paid ads AHN/Northerner & NENews to continue. EMAIL IN dates and times as soon as you know them - thanks.
- Arts Council website - www.fsjarts.org Send information/photos to office.
- Moose FM Radio: Fax article to promote event (Community Events) - will be read on air 4 to 6 times a day. Fax number: 250-263-9749

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
October 15, 2014

Call to Order: 12:07

In Attendance: Rosemary Landry, Margaret May, Kelly Nabseth, Paulette Kindrat, Shannon Bolog, Marjo Wheat, Rosemarie Philips, Susan McGarvey, Eliza Stanford, Heather Hannaford, Tanya Shymko, Megan Singh, Anita Anderson

Intro: Power Point presentation for city was shown to members.

Approval of Agenda: Eliza added report of coming event, approval of the 2014-2015 budget under financial report and add All Candidates Forum to Future of Arts, Moved by Rosemary Philips, seconded by Eliza to accept the agenda

Approval of Minutes: Moved by Megan, seconded by Kelly, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2014. Carried

Financial Report: Moved by Margaret to accept the 2014-2015 budget, seconded by Paulette. Carried

Correspondence: 2015 Calendars from the Regional Juried Show are available for sale at the ArtsPost for \$25. Handouts from downtown revitalization planning, Art Avenue, Thank-you letter from Potters Guild

GROUP REPORTS

Fort St. John Film Society: There were good turnouts for first 2 films. The next film is *Boyhood* showing on Monday, October 20.

NEAT: NEAT hosted 2 Community Canning Workshops in Fort St. John. Members of the Community came together for two Saturday afternoons of canning. Participants were able to make and can applesauce and spiced crab apples with apples from local crab apple trees, Saskatoon Jam from local Saskatoon berries, and Herbed Tomatoes and Salsa from locally grown Tomatoes. Each participant was able to take some of the canned goodies home and we were able to donate 178 cans to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Upcoming Events:

NEAT has started a playgroup for caregivers/Parents and tots that is meeting October 14, 28, November 4, 18 and December 9th. Our goal is to promote the opportunity to young children to explore the natural world through play and art.

NEAT's 4th Annual Fundraiser, Peace, Love & Trees (Wine & Trees) is October 25 at 7:00 PM at the Quality Inn. Get your groove on with NEAT! October 25th we are taking a trip back to the 70's at Peace, Love & Trees. We are raising money for local environmental programming and having a great time with The Ramblers and rocking the night away!!!

NEAT is looking for an artist to help us "Paint the Tank" at the FSJ Community Garden. We need someone to outline a peacock design on the Water Tank.

Beginning early November, NEAT will be offering "Java Nights" for the community. We will be meeting at various Coffee Shops around FSJ and offering a night of recycled/reclaimed art/craft projects. Dates are TBA.

FSJ Dance Society: Dancers have been back in class for about a month and the year is going well. 6 new dancers have been added to the youngest group. Some groups are preparing for ballet exams and everyone is preparing for their 1st annual Christmas recital on November 23 at the Cultural Centre. There may be a costume swap & shop on October at the Studio. Membership in the society is holding steady at about 25. They have been busy selling Mega Lotto tickets as well as Purdy's and South Hill Designs. They will be selling Panago coupons in the month of November. The 16th annual Ladies Day Out will be a two day event this year, held on November 8th and 9th at North Peace School from 10 am to 4 pm each day. More tables are available this year. Anyone interested should email ladiesdayoutfsj@gmail.com. The society is collecting non-perishable food items and toys at the door for the Women's Resource Centre. Ad donation earns an additional entry for a door prize.

Northern Dance Theatre Society: The troupe is up to 54 dancers this year. NDTS members are busy with fundraisers such as Mega Lotto, Purdy's and Moms Pantry. Senior dancers are selling wreaths and bird seed to raise money for their trip to New York in July. Rehearsals for the Nutcracker are starting soon. Show dates are December 18-22 with 2 shows each day. The society has purchased a trailer to use for concession and are offering sponsorship opportunities. Sponsors can put their logo on the sides or back of the trailer. For information contact Shauna White at swhite37@telus.net.

North Peace Potters Guild: The Chili Bowl Bash in June was considered by many to be the best ever. Other than that it was a quiet summer. We hosted 2 groups of children from the library for a short workshop. Enthusiastic members did some work on their pots in anticipation the pit firing. The AGM held in June elected an executive to take us through this next year.

We purchased a sea can, now located at the Artspost to carry the overflow of equipment that had previously been stored in the back room of the studio.

We started off the year with the outdoor pit firing at an out of town location, a first for most and a great success.

Classes started in mid-September. The beginning class is full and going well. The Extension class has enthusiastic beginning throwing students and one, with some experience, new to town, who uses the wheel using the different rotation that common in Asia. North Americans and Europeans generally have the wheel rotate in a counter clockwise direction, while in Asia it turns clockwise.

The Guild is eagerly anticipating a visit from well know Chinese artist, Huang Fei, for a "blue and white painting" workshop; painting on clay pottery, practicing first on paper. A Friday night presentation is also planned, arranged through an ex NP Potters' Guild member, now resident in Prince George.

We have updated the studio with a first aid/eye wash centre and with a refrigerator. MM> Space is becoming short.

The Winter Sale is on Dec 6th. Members are really encouraged to work on some pieces. Some will be testing the market with their work for the first time and support is appreciated. Mug wall is open every Saturday and there are new mugs on the way

Peace River North Festival: Planning is underway for the 2015 festival with the syllabus being prepared and sent out. The AGM was held on September 30. The 2015 is scheduled for April 11-18.

Spectrum Art Classes: Classes are still doing well. Kids classes began on October 8 with a full class! These classes will run every Wednesday until the end of October. To work around the Christmas sale, the Thursday Adult Class will double up on classes for 2nd week of November. The date will be announced soon.

North Peace Spinners & Weavers: The AGM was in September. A rug hooking workshop will be held at the college. In January there will be for introduction to spinning classes. Tea towel projects are on two of the looms right now with a blanket project also underway. The group will take part in the ArtsPost Winter Wale and open house on December and they are busy making scarves to sell.

Fort St. John Irish Dance Society: Our AGM was held on October 7th. Elections were held, new positions were created to help with up-coming events, and fundraising was discussed. There are several new families and Connie has been busy doing registration. For fundraising we are currently selling Mega Lotto tickets and Christmas wreaths or center pieces. This year we are offering performances at Christmas parties, for a donation. Twenty dancers traveled to Calgary last weekend to compete at the Feis on Fhomain. They all did well and many came home with medals and trophies. Most of our dancers will be traveling to Calgary again in November for the Western Canadian Regionals, which is also the World's and National Qualifier. The girls have been practicing an extra day a week, to be prepared for this.

Fort St. John Country Quilters: The group has been holding their regular meetings at the Salvation Army. There is a raffle underway which ends on October 27. Care quilt are being made to give away. The group will hold a three day in-town retreat at the end of November.

Peace Art Gallery Society: Preview at Peace Gallery North from Oct 14th through to Oct 17th. Come and view all the wonderful pieces of art that will be up for auction on Saturday October 18th.

Tickets available at the North Peace Cultural Centre.

Venue: Pomeroy Hotel, Doors Open at 6:00

6 -7 Complimentary Champagne, Viewing of artwork, Silent Auction, Games and Raffles

7 - 8:30 Elegant two-line buffet dinner 8:30 - 10:00 Live Auction, Door Prizes, Complimentary Wine

10 - 10:30 Draws and Raffles, Grand Door Prize

10:30 - 1:00 Dance

11:30 - 1:00 "Midnight Lunch"

Artwork for auction may also be seen on Peace Gallery North FACEBOOK page.

Stage North: Stage North opens the first show of the season on October 31 with *Sherlock Holmes, The Case of the Jersey Lily*, directed by JP Wood at the North Peace Cultural Centre at 7:30 pm, continuing until November 8. Stage North is working again with Northern Dance Theatre Society and Studio 2 Stage in producing *The Nutcracker* in December. *Pride and Prejudice* is the next show in February.

Stage North has received additional funding through BC Gaming and can now add about 50-60 chairs to their newly renovated small theatre space. The BC Creative Spaces grant provided \$15,000 which was spent mostly on theatre lights for the new space. Thanks for the extra \$2000 donated to the Arts Council that has been allocated toward a community stage. So far the cash cost has been \$19,000 and many hours of volunteer work plus in-kind contributions.

Stage North had 2 executive directors in the past year with Karma Pratt and Maureen Sharp, neither of whom can continue with the position. They are looking for another executive director if anyone is interested. Contact is Dawn Ljuden at 250-262-9846.

School District #60 Band: The Christmas Band Concert will be held on November 28 at 7 pm at the Cultural Centre. Senior Band members are fundraising for their trip to Cuba in the spring.

BUSINESS

Forum: We will set up a discussion forum for all candidates for City Council. This forum will focus on the arts and we hope to organize in cooperation with the Cultural Centre. Moved by Susan, seconded by Eliza to go forward with organizing an all candidates forum for everyone running for city council and school trustee. Carried.

Future of arts discussion will be part of the candidate's forum. Board members are meeting with Wally Harris at WW&H at 1:30 October 16 to discuss the relationship between the Arts Council and city government. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Alaska Highway Celebration: Arts Council will be registration point for celebrations held for the 75th anniversary of the building of the highway. This will be a year of celebration: Canada - 150 Canada, Arts Council - 50, Stage North - 40.

Recycle, Reuse, Rejoice: A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with the Christmas ornament sale which starts on November 22 and runs to December 13.

Policy meeting for Scholarships and Bursaries: October 22, 10 am at the ArtsPost

Eliza shared information on an Innovation Lab designed to help organizations take the first step toward becoming a social enterprise.

Sand Sensations: The Arts Council has reviewed the first three years of Sand Sensations BC. The event has been very successful with thousands of people visiting the site to view sculptures by some of the best sand carvers in the world. There are challenges in raising enough funds each year to hold the event and so far there has been no financial return to the Arts Council.

It was decided that the benefits of the event were such that the Arts Council will continue to organize Sand Sensations for the next three years, growing it each year and leading to the biggest event in 2017, which will be part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the building of the Alaska Highway.

The 2015 Sand Sensations BC will be held July 27-August 2, 2015 at Peace Island Park. The theme will be *Marvel-us-Sand: A Tribute to Superheroes*.

Frame It: This event will be postponed to spring and not held on October 25.

Patron/Arts Advocacy: The beginning of a patron program has been built on the end of the Flower Pot project. After the city terminated the flower pot partnership with the Arts Council, we reached out to long-time sponsors of flower pots with a letter of explanation and a request to continue to support the arts through an Arts Advocacy program. The response was excellent and, to date, \$7,800 has been contributed.

Artists in Residence at local schools: Stephen Petrucci is holding a meeting at the board office to outline a program which would see artists collaborate with schools to enhance educations through the arts. The school district will be starting a data base of artists that can contribute and collaborate in the schools using their skills to teach students.

Adjournment: Moved by Tanya, seconded by Marjo at 1:03 pm, to adjourn the meeting.

**FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 17, 2014 Artspost (10320 94 Avenue)**

Call to Order: Called to order 12:05 noon

In Attendance: Rosemary Landry (Chair/Flying Colours), Paulette Kindrat (Northern Dance Theatre Soc), Eliz Stanford (member), Monica Best (NP Music Teachers) Kelly Nasbeth (Fort St. John Dance Society) Heather Hannaford (NP Potters), Marjo Wheat (Spin and Weav) Tanya Shymko (Spectrum Art Classes), Rachel Casponi (Choir *Empire*), Sue Popesku (director)

Approval of the Agenda: Motion Eliza Stanford, second Paulette Kindrat. To accept the agenda with the added subject of 1. Banners and 2. Request from gallery for Henry See.
CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of Nov 19, 2014: Motion Monica Best, second Eliza Stanford to accept the minutes as presented.
CARRIED

Financial Report *Available every second meeting—no report today*

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you from Peace River Reg Dist for the presentation and artwork of Judy Templeton from the 2014 Regional Juried Show for the permanent collection which is provided by the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council.

A request from Mike Whalley of the Regional Airport to meet with the Arts Council about the enhancement of the airport and the greeting of the thousands of visitors that come through every year. WE will set up a meeting time with him in the new year. Marjo W and Eliza S wish to be included in this discussion with the Airport and the CAC Board.

GROUPS REPORTS

Irish dance report Shannon Bolog

We had several dancers travel to the De Danaan Feis in Vancouver at the end of November. A weekend work shop, with a guest teacher, was held for the dancers traveling to the All Scotland's. The qualifying dancers are getting ready to go to nationals early in the new year. Fundraising: Our wreaths and center pieces have all been handed out and they are beautiful and fragrant again this year. The society has done well again this year selling the mega lotto tickets. We are still filling spots at the different locations available. We also provided safe rides home from several corporate Christmas parties for a donation.

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING December 17, 2014 Artspost (10320 94 Avenue) page 2

Potter's Guild Report Heather Hannaford

Great turnout and lots of support at our annual winter sale. Reports from some that it was the best yet. Certainly it was in terms of member participation which is great. A wonderful 2 days of learning to paint blue on white on ceramics and paper, Jingdezhen fashion. We were lucky and honoured to welcome Huang Fei from China on his Canadian Tour. Stay tuned for pictures on our Facebook page very soon. Classes are just about done for this term. New registrations for class in January are open from Sunday 21st. Repeating students may register from today. Start date Jan 13th. Work on the chili bowl bash will start in the new year as well. This year's event is June 21st. Saturday.

Northern Dance Theatre Society Paulette Kindrat

Here at NDTs we are busy sending Christmas cheer throughout the community . A lot of our girls are performing for the seniors and Christmas parties. We are gearing up for The Nutcracker performance, Dec 18-21, starting tomorrow with an all day sneak peak for the schools . Tickets are on sale at the cultural centre \$25 adult \$15 per child. January we will be busy picking up Christmas trees , and a bottle drive . We will be raising funds for the trip to NYCity in July. We wish you all a healthy happy Merry Christmas from Northern Dance Theatre Society!

Fort St. John Dance Society Kelly Nasbeth

We're getting organized to host a Valentine's Day Evening at the Lido Theatre, Feb 14, 2015. We've booked The Montney Coulies, a local band, and will have drinks, snacks and desserts. As well as raffles for a travel voucher, jewelry and gift baskets etc. This is our last week of dance. The studio will be closed for 2 weeks over Christmas and New Years, reopening on January 5, 2015. Registration will be open in the new year, more information by calling The Move Dance Studio at 250-787-7754, or emailing Karen: the move_karen@hotmail.com

North Peace Music Teachers Monica Best

Our recital on Nov 21 was very successful. We had raffles for various items and auctioned off a few things. Then we auctioned off the music teachers to make a fancy dinner for a party of 6. The highest bid was \$525. So altogether we made \$1000. WE had 45 students participate at NLC for this event.

Spinners and Weavers Marjo Wheat

The winter sale on Dec 6 was the best we have had yet and are looking forward to doing it again next year. Classes are planned for Feb and a Card in Colour workshop for Mar 7. In April there will be a Sp/Wv show in the Gallery.

Choir Empire- Rachel Casponi Handel's Messiah was standing room only at the Alliance church on Sunday and sold out in advance for Monday at the NPCC. Involvement in this event drew people back to playing instruments and to singing.

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING December 17, 2014 Artspost (10320 94 Avenue)

page 3

The growth and interest in quality music is evident. The youth choir and adult choir have many members and a Chamber choir may be started in the new year. The theme for joint music project for 2015 will be Mental Darkness-Awareness-Prevention-Healing with readings and singing. Congratulations was extended to the choirs and Northern Winds and additional orchestra members led by Rachel C, Sandra Gunn, Sabrina Brooks, Monica Best and Jen Giesbrecht for a spectacular performance of Handel's Messiah.

Eliza Stanford-artist- Is working on coloured ice for the High On Ice Festival in February and exploring coloured sand for Sand Sensations in July. She is also one of three organizing a Speakers Evening Talk of the Town for Feb 25 where invited guests have 8 minutes of time to talk about interesting topics.

Spectrum Art Studios Classes-Tanya Shymko has a new set of art classes for children and adults starting Jan 15 in the new year at the Artspost.

Flying Colours- Rosemary Landry reported that there will be a workshop in February. And that Barry Moss is the new president of PAGS at Peace Gallery North.

BUSINESS:

NPCC AGM: Everyone was encouraged to attend the North Peace Cultural Centre Annual General Meeting tonight at Dec 17 at 7pm in the NPCC.

PROMOTIONS: A reminder that the Arts Council will continue to promote all arts events through the NE news and the CAC website and facebook. Please send in vital info plus posters as soon as you know dates and times.

AWARDS POLICY: The policy changes to the Awards and Bursaries for NLC and NPSS students is tabled until more work can be accomplished by the Awards Committee.

NEW BANNER PROJECT was introduced by Eliza Stanford. Eliza and Sue P. are outlining a program to supply new and local banners for the downtown core in the summer of 2015, possible summer and winter for 2016 and possible walking trail banners in 2017. The 2015 banners will cost \$8000 and can be sponsored by 40 individuals or businesses @ \$200 each. The theme is "Take Flight" in honour of the Airshow for 2015. One artist will be selected to do 6 images which will be professionally transferred to nylon banners for the lamp posts downtown. These banners may be used again in 2017 for the next airshow or made into tote bags to be sold to raise funds. The 2016 theme is Arts in honour of the BC Performing Arts Festivals provincial competition being held in FSJ and the 2017 theme is the Alaska Highway and possibly the 50th anniversary of the Arts Council.

FORT ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING December 17, 2014 Artspost (10320 94 Avenue) page 4

REQUEST FROM PEACE GALLERY NORTH Alan White, coordinator of the Gallery, requested financial donations for Henry See, Headspace manager. He will require financial help to received treatment in Vancouver. The Arts Council contributes to projects and causes of the member groups but not to individuals. The Arts Council will support the Gallery in this project.

MOTION: Sue moved/seconded by Eliza “ that the Arts Council donate the proceeds from the Artwork that is “Going to the Highest Bidder” next week.” CARRIED

This artwork was given to the Arts Council and came from the old Hospital because it cannot be hung in the new hospital. People have had a chance to enter a bid since mid-November. Paulette Kindrat will have the bid box at *The Nutcracker* performances for more exposure.

PROGRAM REPORTS

ReCycle, ReUse, ReJoyce Christmas sale has raised about \$1500 so far and another \$2000 from Spectra Energy annual donation towards a Christmas fundraiser. The last day is Dec 20. We have lots of artificial trees, lights and non-breakable bulbs. The suggestion has come up that the Arts Council organize a “Walk of Trees” next Christmas at the airport or in Centennial Park. A special effort to get community groups to decorate a tree and a specific evening could be set aside for carollers and hot chocolate. In the meantime we will sell as many trees as possible and begin to save throughout the year. We will ask the airport for storage space.

Meeting Dates:

Next Board meeting Jan 14, 2015 7pm Artspost Guest Kylah Bryde Community Development Coordinator of the City

Next Regular Meeting Jan 21, 2015 12 noon Artspost

Peace Liard Regional Arts Council Jan 31 all day Artspost

Adjournment: 1:15pm

Chair Rosemary Landry

Recording Sue Popesku