

Chatham-Kent Museum Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, Sep 26, 2019

7:00 PM

Call to Order

Present: Nicholas Cadotte
Clair Culliford
Frank Vink
Councillor Michael Bondy
Stephanie Saunders, Curator, Chatham-Kent Museum
Heather Slater, Manager, Arts and Culture
Blair Newby, Assistant Curator, CK Museum, Curator, Ridge House
Deborah Furlan, Admin Assistant, Arts and Culture
Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services

Regrets: Garna Argenti
Eileen Crouch

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest (Direct or Indirect) and the General Nature Thereof

No member of the Board declared a pecuniary interest on any matter on the open session agenda.

2. Election of the Chair

Ms. Saunders acknowledged receipt of two resignations, Chairperson Mindy Bowls and Garna Argenti.

Cl. Bondy nominated Mr. Culliford. Mr. Vink nominated self. Committee voted on paper slips. Votes in, tie two and two. Names in a cup and one paper pulled by Dr. Rietdyk. Mr. Vink's name was pulled from the cup.

Mr. Vink is chair.

3. Introduction – Blair Newby, Assistant Curator, CKM/Curator, RHM

Ms. Saunders introduced Ms. Newby, the new Assistant Curator, CK Museum and Curator, Ridge House; Ms. Newby greeted the Committee and gave a brief introduction.

Ms. Newby has 14 years of experience in the museum field. Ms. Newby has a Bachelors in History from the University of Waterloo and Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Toronto.

Ms. Newby has previously worked at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum as a summer student for six years and at the Chatham-Kent Black History society for five years as the Executive Director.

More recently, Ms. Newby worked in the Special Events department at Black Creek Pioneer Village coordinating events for four years and at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario as the Outreach officer for 3 three years.

Ms. Newby is truly excited about this opportunity and what the year ahead has in store for her as the Curator of Ridge House Museum.

The committee welcomed Ms. Newby.

4. Minutes of the Chatham-Kent Museum Advisory Committee Meeting Held on May 23, 2019

Mr. Culliford moved, seconded by Cl.Bondy:

“That the minutes of the May 23, 2019 Chatham-Kent Museum Advisory Committee meeting be approved.”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the May 23, 2019 Advisory Committee meeting

None

6. Education and Training

None

7. New Business

a. Items Recommended for deaccessioning

None

b. Information Reports to be Received

i. Curator's report, by Stephanie Saunders, Curator

Attendance Summary:

- May
 - Paying: 69
 - Non-paying: 845
 - School: 60
 - Milner: 26
 - Total: 1000
- June
 - Paying: 19
 - Non-paying: 700
 - School: 337
 - Milner: 214
 - Milner School: 74
 - Total: 1344
- July
 - Paying: 54
 - Non-paying: 927
 - School: 0
 - Milner: 247
 - Total: 1228
- August
 - Paying: 72
 - Non-paying: 967
 - School: 52
 - Milner: 269

- Total: 1360

Web Visitors:

- May:
 - Municipal website: 943
 - Facebook users/clicks: 6445/579
- June:
 - Municipal website: 530
 - Facebook users/clicks: 2375/83
- July:
 - Municipal website: 725
 - Facebook users/clicks: 592/64
- August:
 - Municipal website: 479
 - Facebook users/clicks: 3176/283

Staff Development:

- Paige Alexander and Courtney Pinsonneault have been hired as Museum Ambassadors.
- Blair Newby has been hired on contract as the Assistant Curator, CKM/Curator, RHM.
- Keirsten Smith has resigned from her position as a Museum Ambassador.
- Adele Steele, Kelsie VanDeVelde, and Lauren McKerrall have completed their contracts as Historical Interpreters (summer students).

Maintenance:

- The water meter at Milner Heritage House has been changed.
- The Milner Heritage House main floor air conditioning unit is not functional.
- The Milner Heritage House “bird room” has sustained water damage due to an HVAC leak. No artifacts were affected. The cause of the leak has been repaired.
- Monthly fire alarm testing has been conducted.

Curatorial Activities:

- 19 artifacts have been accessioned.
- 11 research requests were received and 7 have been completed.

Conservation:

- No update

Exhibitions:

- “School is in Session” opened at the Blenheim Heritage House on July 26.
- “Worlds of the Night” closed on August 4.
- “Carnivals! Festivals! Fairs! Oh My!” opened on August 28.

Interpretation/Education:

- In partnership with the Kent Historical Society, the museum hosted presentations on the Gray Dort Company on May 21 (15 attended), and Gray’s China Hall on September 17 (24 attended).
- The May 30 CKM ThursDIY had five people in attendance to make nature candles.
- 26 children made emergency picnic kids at CKM Kids Club on June 1.
- CKM also took part in Youthfest on June 1.
- The CKM ThursDIY for June was cancelled due to low enrollment.
- Tilbury Area Public School brought 18 students on a STEAM program on June 21.
- The museum participated in the EarlyON Bright Beginnings Expo in Tilbury on June 22 with 25 adults and 22 children in attendance.
- The first week of summer camp with the theme of “Adventure Camp” had 23 registrations.
- “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” summer camp week had 31 registrations.
- “Messy Museum” summer camp week welcomed 37 campers.
- Montessori visited the Imagination Station in the museum with 37 pre-kindergarten children on August 27.
- 35 campers attended our “Myths, Fantasy and Legends” week of summer camp.
- 14 toddlers from Montessori came to visit the Imagination Station in the museum on August 27.
- Kids Club for September was cancelled due to low enrollment.

Marketing/Public Relations:

- Posters, web postings, signage, and social media promotion were undertaken as required for all museum programming and exhibits.

Governance/Policy:

- No update.

Items of Interest:

- Upcoming Events:

- PA Day: Game On!, Friday, September 27, 8:30AM-5:00PM
- Sensory Friendly Saturday, Saturday, September 28, 10AM-11AM
- Sensory Trivia, Thursday, October 3, 7PM-10PM
- Kent Historical Society: General Duncan McArthur, Tuesday, October 15, 7:30PM-10PM
- PA Day: Monsters, Giants and Heroes, Friday, October 25, 8:30AM-5:00PM
- Kids Club: Haunted Hallowe'en, Saturday, October 26, 10AM-11AM
- Kids Club: WildCK, Saturday, November 16, 10AM-11AM
- Kent Historical Society: Chris Carter, Tuesday, November 19, 7:30PM-10PM
- PA Day: WildCK, Friday, November 22, 8:30AM-5:00PM
- CKM Adult Gingerbread Workshop, Thurs, December 12, 7PM-9PM
- Kids Club: Noon Year's Eve Party, Tuesday, December 31, 11AM-12PM

Committee engaged in discussion:

- Is a click a LIKE? A click is a LIKE, SHARE, COMMENT, basically an impression.
- Milner house numbers are about steady over the last few years.
- Sensory Trivia is online; Mr. Culliford suggested committee members participate.
 - Dr. Rietdyk any thoughts on why some programs have significant registration and others cancelled. Ms. Saunders does not get a lot of feedback on programs that get cancelled. Ms. Slater thinks the Arts and Culture team can do a better job, more frequent, get the word out, marketing and promoting.
 - Mr. Vink Grays China Hall is closing – looking for paper, random items for the museum.

Cl. Bondy moved, seconded by Mr. Cadotte:

“That the Curator’s Report be received as information”

The Chair put the Motion.

Motion Carried

8. Non-Agenda Items

Dr. Reitdyk requested Mr. Vink share research he has been doing. Mr. Vink has been itemizing historical documents left at Ridgetown Municipal Centre (previously borrowed by an old curator).

Four Family Groups information:

- (1) Robert Gray not wealthy and lots of tragedy in his life (William Gray's brother). William became Mayor; the family ties back to Roxburghshire Scotland – to be accessioned to the CK Museum.
- (2) Beatties (Highgate) – Indian agent for Moraviantown. One of the Beattie descendants was sent a German shepherd dog.
- (3) John Blue – 1840s – receipt for a clock from William Hoyt.
- (4) John L Smith (Morpeth) – innkeeper; signed letter from Mayor of London Ontario owned a company for Stove Works about cast iron stove.

Mr. Culliford looking for a copy of a Chatham-Kent map hanging up in the library. Ms. Furlan offered to contact municipal records to assist.

9. Time, Date and Place for the Next Meeting of the Board

The next meeting of the committee will be held Thursday, January 30, 2020 in Studio One of the Chatham Cultural Centre at 7:00 PM. Additional meetings in 2020, are May 28 and September 24.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Cadotte that the meeting be adjourned at 7:41 PM