



**CITY OF RICHMOND HILL
HERITAGE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HCAC #01-2024
Monday February 5, 2024
10a.m. – 12p.m.
Microsoft TEAMS**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order The Meeting was called to order by: Nancy Spinks at 10:03a.m.

2. Welcome/Regrets

Committee Members: Nancy Spinks, Cameron Telch, Councillor Simon Cui, Rosina Fazzolari

Regrets: Tom Pachkovsky, Mayor David West

Staff: Dan DiRuscio, Maggie Mackenzie, Carol Hughes

3. Adoption of Agenda

- The agenda be adopted as distributed.

4. Adoption of Minutes

- HCAC#01-23 held on June 1, 2023.

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

6. Heritage Services Update

STAFFING:

- Frances Jardin, Outreach and Development Assistant is on maternity leave and replaced by Claudia DiNucce
- Jennifer Higginson, Operations Assistant accepted a position in the Clerks Department and has been replaced by Daniel Bruno.
- Two staff now have offices at the RHDDO
- Summer 2024 positions were posted in December and closed January 5, 2024. Staff are currently reviewing applications.
- 2 returning summer staff plus 1 spare

EVENTS:

- 2023 Summer and Fall Teas a huge success. We hosted a second leaf reading, variety of entertainment/talks brought in. 2024 Teas starting strong,
- Hosted the Wedgwood Exhibition Opening – Jan 27
 - Lunar New Year tea – Feb 10 St. Patrick's Day – March 16
 - Spring/Summer 2024 Teas in planning stages
- Doors Open – May 11, 2024
- We have 10 sites applied. Currently going through the selection
 - This will be a joint effort with the Studio Tour
 - The RHDDO will have pre-registration to avoid the huge line-ups
- Live History at the RHDDO returns – June 22, 2024

HERITAGE CENTRE

- Website has been upgraded to include on-line request forms for Private/school program booking requests as well as rental requests. We have had a strong start to 2024.
- Summer Camps 2023, with the exception of the first week, were all full. Summer Camp 2024 open for registration last week and we already have three camps full, with waitlists. The other five camps have strong registration numbers.

RICHMOND HILL DAVID DUNLAP OBSERVATORY (RHDDO)

- We had over 100 private bookings at the RHDDO in 2023. 2024 off to a healthy start with over 30 bookings confirmed for up to June 2024 and we just open April to June last week,
- The Public programs continue to thrive. The Spring Summer and Early fall our family nights filled up and we had to request the partners to schedule more due to the demand. 60% of the registration and booking are out of City/non-resident.
- Planning for the Eclipse – April 8, 2024.
- Improving on Marketing initiative beyond the Website. Creation of posters for Community Centres etc.
- Tour the RHDDO in 2023 attracted over 10,000 visitors. The 2024 season will see weekends in May and June as well as September until early October. July and August will be open Wednesday s to Sundays
- Stargazing Parties were introduced in 2023. Will be held again in 2024 come spring, around the full moon for best viewing.
- Interest is growing for rentals, Photo permits, film permits.

GRANTS

- We successfully filled 9 Summer Student Grants in 2023 and have applied for 10 grants for this summer.
- The YMCA French exchange has returned for 2024 and we plan to apply for one student to help at the Heritage Centre.

- Students will be employed at the Heritage Centre, Artifact Storage and RHDDO when approved.
- Some students have started and some will be coming onboard at the end of June. Eight full-time positions in total as a result of this grant.
- Operating Grant (CMOG) was approved

EXHIBITS

Exhibits for the Community Gallery for 2024

- Wedgewood exhibit “Beyond the Blue and White” opened January 27, 2024. On Loan from King Township Heritage and Cultural Centre until April 27th.
- Bringing back Queen Victoria’s Secret in May for the summer. We will be using this opportunity to create a travelling Exhibit, to loan out and generate revenue.
- RCAC Museum exhibit in the fall

7. Upcoming Programs/ Events

- Lunar New Year tea – Feb 10
- St. Patrick’s Day – March 16
- Eclipse Event – April 8, 2024. A number of pre-event/pre-education programs have been scheduled
- Live History at the RHDDO – June 22
- Planning for a Guide/Scout Jamboree in 2025 – early talks

8. Scheduled Business/Action Plan Review

- Strategic Plan Term of Council 2023 – 26
 - i This is needed for the Operating Grant (CMOG)
- What are the goals for this Council Term
 - Programming – expand on and get the word out
 - Exhibits – connecting with community groups
 - Look at new exhibit spaces
 - Look at partnership opportunities – particularly with local groups
 - Heritage stories and exhibits
 - More presence of heritage at events – with proper lead time
- Committee Members to send Maggie their top 3 goals for Richmond Hill before next meeting

9. New Business

- RHHS planning their 2024 schedule
- City budget for 2024 has been approved

10. Meeting Schedule/Date of Next Meetings

- Minimum of five meetings per year.

- Monday February 26th – 10am – Virtual: Teams Meeting
- Monday April 15th – 10am – location TBD

11. Adjournment

Moved by: Nancy Spinks

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.