



Stratfords of the World (Ontario) Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratfords of the World (SOTW) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Joan Ayton – Chair Presiding, June Wells, Ken Clarke, Susan Kummer, Virginia Burrow, Kathy Hill, Councillor Tom Clifford

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Linda Hawken, Mary-Anne Krutila, Tatiana Dafoe - Clerk

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Joan Ayton, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by June Wells

Seconded by Virginia Burrow

THAT the minutes from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting dated May 19, 2022, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Reunion Plans – Joan Ayton

Joan Ayton reported that at the planning meeting, members suggested the Reunion be held between the last week of July and the first week of August 2023. Stratford Summer Music will be holding their World in a Weekend again next year, which will run from August 3-7, 2023. Ms. Ayton proposed that the Committee hold the Reunion either beginning the 1st or 3rd week of August. Members' preference would be to move ahead with scheduling the Reunion for August 1–8, 2023. Ms. Ayton advised she has inquired with Stratford Summer

Music to see if there are any interested delegates from the visiting countries that could participate in their World in a Weekend event, if they would like to.

Members discussed having to increase the registration amount due to rising costs. Joan Ayton proposed a \$50.00 increase in the amount, for a total of \$375.00 per delegate. She stated that in her opinion, it is necessary to keep the fee under \$400.00 to attract delegates back again. Registration will open mid-September with an updated registration form available on the City's website. Ms. Ayton suggested that November 1, 2022 be the deadline for final registration and that payment will be required to be into each group leader by December 1, 2022. January 1, 2023 will be the deadline for the group payments to be sent into Stratford, ON. Any registrations received after January 1, 2023, will increase to \$400.00 per delegate.

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by June Wells

THAT The Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee sets the registration fee for the August 1-8, 2023 Reunion at \$375.00 per delegate;

AND THAT after January 1, 2023 the fee be increased to \$400.00 per delegate. Carried

Ms. Ayton stated that the Committee will try and keep the itinerary for 2023 as close as possible to the itinerary from 2020. It was noted that some changes will be necessary based on costs and availability of venues. It was discussed and confirmed that a bus trip to Niagara will not be organized. Information will be provided to delegates for the bus that frequently travels round-trip from Stratford to Niagara, should they wish to visit.

Members were advised the previous organizer for the Indigenous experience is no longer available. Information about another individual who may be able to assist will be provided to Susan Kummer.

Ken Clarke advised he would contact the Stratford-Perth Museum and the Stratford Public Library regarding the photographs. The Library has suggested making a video this time instead of posters. Mr. Clarke has proposed possibly doing both.

Joan Ayton stated that the cost of the Stratford Festival Theatre tickets did not increase very much this year. She hopes that this is the case for next year and that it should not impact costs a great deal. However, tour costs with the Friends of the Festival increased 50% this year. The garden tours may return next year.

Ms. Ayton advised she would contact Councillor Henderson to inquire if she would still be available to do a city tour with the delegates.

Ms. Ayton noted she has heard back from all the countries, with the exception of New Zealand. Overall, the countries are still interested in attending. The estimated number is currently around 50 delegates. Ms. Ayton suggested that it is not necessary to cap each country at 30 delegates, as this most likely will not be an issue this time.

Members were advised there will be another planning meeting scheduled over the summer. Joan Ayton advised she would contact the other Stratfords to inform them of the Reunion date and the registration fees. Ms. Ayton will also reach out to the other leaders to inquire if there is any way to work on a connection in New Zealand to keep them connected to Stratfords of the World. June Wells inquired if any other Stratfords had ever contacted the group to join. Ms. Ayton stated she is not aware that anyone has inquired.

Councillor Clifford now present at the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Ms. Ayton advised she would contact the Corporate Communications Specialist to post an announcement on social media to announce the new Reunion date.

4.2 Update on SOTW Reunion Garden – Susan Kummer

Susan Kummer reported that as of June 21, 2022, all the plants have been put in. The perennials were in earlier, however the wind caused damage to the plants and Ms. Kummer brought them home to tend to them.

5. New Business

None noted.

6. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Susan Kummer

THAT the June 23, 2022 Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 3:00 P.M.

End Time: 3:28 P.M.