



Special General Meeting / Pontiac Artists' Association
Monday, April 25th 2016, 7:00 pm
Stone School, Portage-du-Fort, QC

MINUTES

Present: France Lamarche (President); Louise Guay (Vice-president); Christopher Seifried (Treasurer); Nicole Lavigne (Secretary); Glendon Hartle (Director); Dale Shutt; Carol Bretzholf; Valerie Bridgeman; Eric Fletcher.

1. Opening of meeting and welcome by the President

Opening and welcome by President.

2. Approval of the agenda

Reading of proposed agenda. It is proposed to add a topic and Item 5 becomes "Members' questions and discussion", and Item 6 "Close of Meeting".

Motion: To accept the proposed agenda with the addition mentioned above.

Moved by: Christopher Seifried

Seconded by: Louise Guay

All in favour / Carried

3. Amendment to the General Rules, Chapter 1, Article 4 – Mandate Statement

The president explained the background for tabling this proposal. This amendment is primarily in response to a recommendation from one of our major funding organizations that the PAA revise its mission statement to be more in line with the vocabulary used by federal, provincial and other agencies that provide arts and culture grants. Specifically, it recommended that we include a statement of vision, mission and enduring goals in our General Rules.

The rule as it is currently written includes both high level goals and specific activities in the mission statement. The Board of Directors recommends that the General Rules focus more on the enduring and ongoing goals of the organization. These should provide direction for the operational objectives and action plans that by their evolving nature should not be enshrined in a constitutional document like the General Rules.

The proposed revisions have been developed in consultation with PAA members. Following preliminary analysis, the Board prepared a discussion draft. At the Annual General Meeting in November 2015 the proposal to amend the General Rule was announced, and members were invited to review and comment on the proposed changes by 31 March 2016. The project was also publicized on the PAA website and through committees. Members' comments and suggestions were reviewed and considered by the Board in preparing the final draft text being proposed today.

The president read the proposed motion and invited members to express their comments and/or questions.

- There was a question about why the last sentence of the existing text did not get reflected in the proposal; it was deemed redundant because of the status of the organization and it was also too specific to fit in these general level statements that are the Vision, Mission and Goals.
- There was a comment that the Mission statement is aligned with other organizations promoting artists in Canada such as the *Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC)*. It was suggested that direct links should be established with them (such as, in the short term, including a link on our web site and Facebook to both CARFAC and RAAV) and that our action plans should further promote the professional recognition of artists, financially and via other means.
- Finally, a typographic error was corrected in the proposed text.

MOTION: Amendment to the General Rules – Article 4:

It is proposed that the following section:

Article 4 Mission

The objectives of the association are:

- *to promote arts and culture and contribute to the cultural life of the Pontiac region ;*
- *to create a calendar of cultural activities;*
- *to organize the annual artists' studio tour*
- *to create and organize a multi-disciplinary School of the Arts*
- *to offer a year round program of cultural activities*
- *to promote the arts and artists with the creation of a multi-disciplinary cultural centre*
- *to collaborate with and participate in other cultural projects in the region*

All profits or donations made to the association will be used for the mission.

be modified to read:

Article 4 Mandate statement

Vision

To make the Pontiac Artists' Association a driving force for the development of arts and culture in the Pontiac region.

Mission

To promote, defend and develop the social, artistic and professional interests of its members and to contribute to the cultural development of the Pontiac.

Goals

To fulfill its mission, the Pontiac Artists' Association will:

- *support the dissemination of its members' art;*
- *provide opportunities for the professional development of its members;*
- *foster relationships and promote collaboration between artists and local and regional cultural organizations;*
- *develop the cultural environment of the region through diverse activities and engagements; and*
- *contribute to the development of new audiences for the arts.*

Moved by: Christopher Seifried
Seconded by: Nicole Lavigne
All in favour / Carried

4. Amendment to the General Rules, Chapter 5, Article 32 – Term Limits

France Lamarche explained the objective for updating Article 32 of the General Rules. As they are currently written, the rules do not permit an officer (i.e., President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) to serve more than four (4) years at the same job. In view of the difficulty of replacing officers, and the benefit of keeping experienced officers in their position, it is proposed that the term limit for officers be changed to eight (8) years. This article does not change the fact that all members of the Board must be re-elected every year as stated in Article 19 of Chapter 4.

MOTION: Amendment to the General Rules, Article 32:

It is proposed that the following section:

Article 32: Mandate

The duration of the officers' term is one year and cannot exceed 4 years at the same job. A board member cannot be an officer more than 8 years in a row.

Be replaced by:

Article 32: Term limits

The duration of the officers' term is one (1) year. A board member cannot be an officer more than eight (8) years in a row.

Moved by: Valerie Bridgeman
Seconded by: Dale Shutt
All in favour / Carried

There was some discussion that followed on the procedures in place to get PAA members to consider more active participation into the activities of the Association, including taking responsibilities as Board members. It was suggested to explore ways to identify the skills members have that they would like to share to contribute to the objectives of the Association as well as the constraints to their participation. It was also agreed to take a more proactive approach prior to the Annual General Meeting to advertise the opportunities to support the activities of the Association as a volunteer, a Committee member or a Board director. Board members agreed to start implementing these suggestions in their work plan.

5. Members' questions and discussion

As requested, discussions were carried on a number of points of interest to members present.

- Exchanges took place about the structure of the various committees, the nature of their activities and the way they relate to the Board.
- Given the difficulty of replacing officers on the Board and the benefit of developing experience in the Association's activities, members discussed the interest of having a succession plan in place to prepare renewal of the Board. Participation in the various committees was identified as a way for PAA members to get to know better the activities of the Association as well as the responsibilities associated with the management of the organization. This approach should be communicated at the AGM with the objective to grow the committees and build the future of the Board.
- Discussion took place with respect to the legal name of the Association and the interest in using a shorter, unique "trade name" or "brand name" to facilitate communication in the context of social medias while maintaining the use of the official name when relevant and for all administrative and legal matters. It was proposed to use "*Art Pontiac*" as the "operating style" in major mass communication activities. Members agreed that there were benefits to this approach and Board members agreed to meet shortly to confirm this approach so it could be used as soon as possible and when relevant in upcoming activities. Glen Hartle will ensure follow-up on this issue.

6. Close of meeting

Close of meeting was proposed by Glendon Hartle, seconded by Eric Fletcher. Carried.
The meeting was closed at 9:10 pm.