

**FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Finance Standing Committee convened on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 10:03 a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Mayor Richard Stewart  
Councillor Brent Asmundson  
Councillor Steve Kim  
Councillor Trish Mandewo  
Councillor Dennis Marsden  
Councillor Teri Towner  
Councillor Chris Wilson

**REGRETS:** Councillor Craig Hodge

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Erin Adams, Coquitlam Public Library  
Todd Gnissios, Coquitlam Public Library  
Joan McCauley, Place des Arts  
Matthew Sebastiani, Place des Arts  
Candrina Bailey, Coquitlam Heritage Society  
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre  
Andrew Richardson, Evergreen Cultural Centre

**STAFF:** Peter Steblin, City Manager  
Raul Allueva, Deputy City Manager  
Michelle Hunt, General Manager Finance, Technology and Police  
Gorana Cabral, Manager Financial Planning  
Karen Basi, Manager Cultural Services  
Jennifer Keefe, Manager Community Recreation and Culture Service  
Jay Gilbert, Director Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Services  
Rachel Cormack, Legislative Services Coordinator  
Misty Temple, Legislative Services Clerk

Councillor Marsden, as per the Acting Mayor schedule, assumed the role of Chair.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Coquitlam Public Library**

Erin Adams (Board Chair) and Todd Gnissios (Executive Director) for the Coquitlam Public Library, appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in their presentation.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the Library's work during the pandemic and the recent heatwave
- Clarification regarding the nature of the funding requests as either ongoing or one-time
- Support for the Library Link's success as a mobile library
- The potential for maintenance-related savings that a new mobile library vehicle may offer

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, Mr. Gnissios responded that the library's reserves had been largely depleted, as funds were needed in order to address other critical areas.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Clarification regarding the allocation of the Library's reserve funds
- Clarification that the proposed vehicle's lifespan is expected to be 10 to 15 years
- Concern for the costly nature of the requested Library Link replacement vehicle
- The inclusion of a 10% contingency fee on the vehicle's proposed cost
- Support for fundraising initiatives in order to alleviate some financial challenges and the organization's capacity for fundraising
- The understanding that the Library Link's mobile nature excludes it from consideration for grants specific to infrastructure
- Clarification regarding the ongoing funding needs for certain proposals
- Appreciation for the Library's work with Reconciliation and First Nation collections

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, Ms. Adams responded that Council had previously asked the library to apply its reserves according to its priorities. She added that, as such, there had not been a consultation relating to the use of reserves on collection requests.

Mayor Stewart left the meeting at this time (10:33 a.m.) and returned at 10:34 a.m.

**2. Place des Arts**

Joan McCauley (Executive Director) and Matthew Sebastiani (Board Treasurer) for Place des Arts, appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in their presentation.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this time (10:51 a.m.) and returned at 10:56 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the organization's success in self-funding and fiscal management
- The desire for information as to how the online store on the Place des Arts website potentially contributes to Place des Arts funds
- Appreciation for Place des Arts work in regards to a Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Strategy
- The understanding that an in-house technology assistant facilitates immediate troubleshooting and support
- Clarification that the proposed role would be a salaried position
- Support for strategies intended to promote youth engagement in the arts
- The desire for Place des Arts to share the tools they utilized to facilitate youth engagement with the City

### **3. Coquitlam Heritage Society**

Councillor Asmundson left the meeting at this time (11:14 a.m.) and returned at 11:18 a.m.

Candrina Bailey (Executive Director) for the Coquitlam Heritage Society, appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the team's efficiency and success in accomplishing goals
- Support for the organization's focus on prioritizing their most urgent challenges
- Clarification regarding the specific process of submitting grant applications

### **4. Evergreen Cultural Centre**

Philip Hartwick (Executive Director) and Andrew Richardson (Board Treasurer) for the Evergreen Cultural Centre, appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in their presentation.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the organization's successful year given the impact of the pandemic
- Support for the use of innovative art displays in generating community interest
- The augmented partnership opportunities that the proposed coordinator role may be able to facilitate
- Clarification of previous budget requests as they relate to the current capital request
- The unique challenges that the pandemic imposed on the arts
- Appreciation for the Centre's level of public engagement

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – November 16, 2021**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify that I have recorded the Minutes of the  
Finance Standing Committee Meeting held Tuesday,  
November 2, 2021 as instructed, subject to amendment and  
adoption.

  
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Misty Temple  
Legislative Services Clerk