

BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY

Minutes of the **Public Hearing (Cultural Master Plan)** of the Municipal Council of Bowen Island Municipality held Monday March 21, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Hall, 981 Artisan Lane, Bowen Island, and B.C.

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Lisa Barrett
Councillor Neil Boyd
Councillor Terry Cotter
Councillor Peter Frinton
Councillor Alison Morse
Councillor David Wrinch

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Isabell Hadford– Chief Administrative Officer
Gina MacKay – Island Community Planner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Approximately 17 members of the Public
Jacqueline Massey – *The Undercurrent*
Gayle Ferguson – Minute Taker

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Barrett noted that the Public Hearing was being convened in order to consider proposed Bylaw No. 129, 2004 cited as “Bowen Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 139, 1995, Amendment Bylaw No. 129, 2004”. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to allow members of the public to make representations to Council. Everyone who was interested would be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written presentations.

Mayor Barrett noted that the Public Hearing would be the last opportunity for the public to comment on Bylaw No. 129. Council would listen to all presentations and at the end of the process, Council could give, without further notice, any decision it deemed proper regarding Bylaw No. 129.

BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION

Bowen Island Official
Community Plan Bylaw No.
139, 1995, Amendment Bylaw
No. 129, 2004

Gina Mackay, Island Community Planner noted that Bylaw No. 129, 2004 would add the Cultural Master Plan to the Bowen Island Official Community Plan. Specific implementation of recommendations of the Cultural Master Plan would be subject to Council approval, available funding, land allocation, additional resources, compliance with the Municipality’s Strategic Plan and any other additional items that might arise.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Gina MacKay, Island Community Planner noted no written submissions had been received.

VERBAL SUBMISSIONS

Eric Sherlock, Bowen Island Arts Council reviewed the Cultural Master Plan process. He commented on the following issues:

- The delay of almost two years in the process of arriving at the Public Hearing for the Cultural Master Plan;
- The rationale for making Arts Council the vehicle for implementation of the Cultural Master Plan;
- The importance of the Cultural Master Plan becoming a part of the Official Community in order to demonstrate to outside organizations that the entire community supported arts and culture. Organizations like Heritage Canada would consider funding only in communities where there was a Cultural Master Plan.

Hans Behm believed that it was desirable to include a document in the Official Community Plan that had received so much public involvement. He noted that the Cultural Master Plan had been well researched and no other Plan except for the Snug Cove Village Plan had been discussed as thoroughly as the Cultural Master Plan, which had included surveys, presentations, and workshops.

Regarding the possibility of the Bowen Island Arts Council becoming a Commission, Mr. Behm noted that the idea had been discarded due to cost considerations. He noted that the model used to create the Bowen Island Parks and Recreation Commission was the model used to develop the Cultural Master Plan.

Martin Rogers noted that he had only recently become aware of Council's intention to include the Cultural Master Plan in the Official Community Plan. He believed that the general public were not aware of the inclusion of the Cultural Master Plan in the Official Community Plan and would be shocked by some of the contents of the Cultural Master Plan. He felt the document could be challenged in court on the grounds of insufficient public consultation. He noted his concern for the projected costs involved in implementation of the Plan. He believed that, as a small community, the plan was overambitious and gave too much power to a small group. He noted his specific concerns as:

1. Wording related to duties of the Bowen Island Arts Council;
2. Questioning of the need to have a Cultural Master Plan in the Official Community Plan indicating community approval of the Bowen Island Arts Council's plan.

Paul Hoosen, Bowen Island Arts Council commented that the Cultural Master Plan had been a part of the public record for the past two years. Findings from the process had recommended that the Bowen Island Arts Council be asked to direct and implement the Plan. Surveys conducted had indicated that 65% of the people on Bowen Island were artistically involved. He noted that the Cultural Master Plan could be changed and the implementation of its recommendations was subject to a variety of conditions listed in Bylaw No. 129, 2004.

Sarah Baker, Cultural Coordinator for the Bowen Island Arts Council noted that 25% of Bowen Island residents made their living through the Arts. The Bowen Island Arts Council viewed the community as a community of artists who wanted to see the community grow through arts and culture and had opted for a way to support themselves through who they were as artists and people interested in culture. She requested Council to remember the above and append the Cultural Master Plan to the Official Community Plan, which would allow the Bowen Island Arts Council to access funding not accessible otherwise.

Pauline Lebel, Artistic Director of Voices of the Sound Festival described the proposed festival as a bringing together of people from various Bowen Island groups. She read from the executive summary of the Cultural Master Plan on how the Plan was set up and the process of community involvement.

Issue of Process

Murray Atherton, Cleator Road commented on the process of including the Cultural Master Plan in the Official Community Plan. He suggested that there should have been more of a public information meeting prior to a Public Hearing. In addition he posed the following questions for Council's consideration:

1. What does it mean as a taxpayer that as a long term strategy the Bowen Island Arts Council could evolve into an Arts and Culture Commission?
2. What would be the costs associated with the Bowen Island Arts Council becoming an Arts and Culture Commission?

Steve Hoffar, Hood Point resident believed there was a need for the public to become more knowledgeable through public information meetings in order to ask questions related to such issues as the economy of Bowen Island being based on Arts and Culture structure.

Gina MacKay, Island Community Planner reviewed the following:

- The history of the formation of the Cultural Master Plan and the process that had taken place since the year 2000;
- The addition of three policies to *Section 5.3 - Heritage Resources of the Official Community Plan*.

In response to a statement from a Councillor that the Cultural Master Plan had not come forward to the public in the form of a public information meeting, Eric Sherlock noted that the Cultural Master Plan terms of reference had obliged the consultants working on the Cultural Master Plan to make the Plan available to the public. There had been an invitation to all Bowen Islanders to attend a November 6, 2002 meeting to review the plan and make comments. He acknowledged that it was unfortunate that other planning priorities had intervened and the process had taken over two years to complete.

Mayor Barrett called for further submissions.

In response to a query regarding the extensiveness of the umbrella structure of the Bowen Island Arts Council, Mr. Behm noted that the Cultural Master Plan was conceived to deal with culture and also cultural recreation but that it would be difficult to define in detail who was included and who was not. The best service to the community would be on an individual or event basis.

Mayor Barrett called second time for further submissions.

Paul Hoosen agreed with comments made earlier by Mr. Atherton and Mr. Hoffar regarding issues of public process and transparency. He noted that there had been an article in the November 15, 2002 edition of *The Undercurrent* referring to the November 6, 2002 public meeting, which had been an invitation to all Bowen Islanders to review the Cultural Master Plan.

Mayor Barrett called three times for any further submissions on the Amendment Bylaw. They're being none, Mayor Barrett declared the Public Hearing with respect to Bylaw No. 129, 2004 closed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Lisa Barrett
Mayor

Isabell Hadford
Chief Administrative Officer