

**HRM GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 3, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. David Woo
Ms. Gina Byrne

REGRETS: Ms. Monica Jordan
Mr. Andrew Higdon
Mr. Geoff Baker

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special
Projects
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. in the Duke Boardroom 1, 3rd Floor Duke Tower.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 12, 2010

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the minutes of April 12, 2010 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 7.1 Information Report - HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Ineligible Applications

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Johns, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1 HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund: 2009-2010 - Shubenacadie Canal Commission

- A staff supplementary report dated March 16, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects provided an overview of the March 16, 2010 staff supplementary report to the Committee, noting that staff followed up with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission (SCC). The Commission requested staff not to contact the Provincial government and indicated their discussions were at a ministerial level. Staff requested the SCC forward their request in writing for the Committee's information.

Ms. Temple advised that Halifax Regional Council has set up a reserve of \$500,000, which will be carried forward for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Johns, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle a commitment of \$500,000 from Account Q138, Community Facility Partnership Reserve, with the conditions that the Shubenacadie Canal Commission agree:

- a) that any funds raised independently by HRM, gifted to, or received by

- HRM as cash in lieu, will be credited to the joint Canal Greenway Phase II fundraising campaign;**
- b) to retain a professional conservator to ensure that the standard of proposed restoration work enhance eligibility as a National Historic Site;**
 - c) to seek timely designation as a National Historic Site; and**
 - d) to provide an updated, itemized breakdown of project costs to HRM.**

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that he was in attendance at last week's SCC meeting and indicated the SCC was told by the Minister of Natural Resources that the Provincial government will not assist with funding for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The Committee originally forwarded a recommendation to Council, to award the grant with conditions on a time line. He expressed concern with moving forward with the previous recommendation, with the knowledge that the conditions will not be met.

Ms. Temple suggested that the Committee carry the funds forward as uncommitted in a reserve fund and carry SCC's application forward, as was done with Nova Scotia College of Art and Design's (NSCAD) application.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Lund, Ms. Temple advised that if the Committee agrees to carry the funds forward as uncommitted, the Committee could also consider holding an open call for new applications.

Councillor Watts expressed concern with regarding to availability for funding within the 2009-2010 budget. She indicated that the Committee may want to hold onto the \$500,000 until they can confirm an applicant meets the requirements to receive funding, rather than reserving funds.

Ms. Temple expressed concern with a perception of being unfair if the Committee chose to restrict the funds only to the NSCAD and the SCC.

Deputy Mayor Johns commented that HRM, through the Special Events Advisory Committee (SEAC), is supporting funding towards the redevelopment of Granville Street. He noted that there may be merit for the HRM Grts Committee to redirect funding to NSCAD given the present funding situation of the SCC. There are discussions regarding redeveloping the Granville Street Mall as an Events Plaza and funding may be provided through arts and culture. NSCAD's application may be more in line with what the Municipality and the Province is looking to achieve.

Ms. Temple advised that based on staff's feedback to NSCAD, staff and the Committee would have a better basis to evaluate NSCAD's application once their supplementary information has been provided.

Deputy Mayor Johns suggested staff confirm with Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Development, to determine what is being considered in regard to the redevelopment of Granville Street Mall. He commented that he would like to see the funds allocated.

Councillor Dalrymple clarified that SCC is appreciative of the award with the conditions. However, the SCC knew from the start of the application process that they might not be able to obtain the necessary funding. Due to the Provincial government's decline in funding, the Commission's private and corporate partnerships have also withdrawn their funding support. The Councillor noted that he had asked the SCC whether there is any hope of being able to meet the conditions of the 50% funding, to which the SCC responded no.

Councillor Walker clarified that the motion before the Committee is committed and would have to be amended to uncommitted if that is the direction they wish to take.

Deputy Mayor Johns clarified that during the April 14, 2010 Special Events Advisory Committee meeting, Mr. Whittemore explained that the business case for the Granville Mall Plaza proposal was to leverage \$500,000 in Federal Government funding from the Heritage Foundation for infrastructure to revitalize the Granville Mall Plaza as an Events Space. Mr. Whittemore also noted that NSCAD would be investing \$1 million through their façade program to help bring synergy to Granville Mall. He commented that SEAC gave \$125,000 from the Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Bryne, Ms. Temple indicated that NSCAD's application is a request for \$1 million, with a projected budget for their project of approximately \$4 million. The SCC is requesting \$525,000, with a projected budget of \$2,250,000. As part of staff's feedback to NSCAD, based on the nature and scale of their project, staff do not feel NSCAD would be awarded the full \$1 million. She expressed concern with the Committee setting a precedent of awarding grants to build libraries. The majority of NSCAD's funding is to move their library into the Granville Mall.

During the ensuing discussion, Ms. Temple commented that she does not believe that NSCAD has failed to meet the Committee's policy guidelines. Ms. Bryne expressed concern that NSCAD has a large amount of funding committed, noting that the portion for which the Committee would be providing funding for is potentially covered.

Ms. Temple indicated that she would do a further review of NSCAD's itemized breakdown of the costs that relate to the Granville Mall building and report back to the Committee.

Ms. Temple further indicated that the SCC's conditions must be met by August 2010. She suggested that the Committee could ask the SCC if they would consider forwarding a letter withdrawing consideration for 2010, based on the Commission's comments that they will more than likely not meet the deadline.

The Committee requested that staff contact the SCC to determine whether they wish to consider forwarding a letter of withdrawal.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Deputy Mayor Johns, that the HRM Grants Committee defer Item 6.1 - HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund:

2009-2010 - Shubenacadie Canal Commission to the next Committee meeting pending additional information.

MOTION to defer PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Property Matter: Community Less than Market Value Lease, 3214 Highway #2 Fall River, Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre

- A staff report dated April 23, 2010 was before the Committee.
- Correspondence to the Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre dated April 29, 2010 from HRM staff re: Offer to Lease - 3214 Highway #2, Fall River (PID 526939), was circulated to the Committee.

Ms. Tara Legge, Community Facility Service Delivery Coordinator, Service Delivery, Community Development, provided an update of the April 23, 2010 staff report to the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- the building is presently under HRM review to determine whether it meets HRM's needs; HRM is considering transferring the building back to the LWF Fireman's Association (LWF)
- the Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre (RFIC) has asked to use the building for an interpretation centre at a nominal rate of \$1; the RFIC will be responsible for all operating and capital costs, as well as, code repairs for the building/property
- a letter was sent to the RFIC on April 29, 2010 outlining HRM's terms and conditions
- RFIC is in agreement with HRM's terms, such as:
 - \$2 million in insurance coverage
 - repairs/replacement of a hot water tank (no pressure relief valve, tank exceeds its life expectancy)
 - the property may, within the term of the lease, be assigned to the LFW
 - RFIC is responsible to complete water testing as per the Provincial guidelines and submit the results to HRM

MOVED by Councillor Barry Dalrymple, seconded by Ms. Gina Byrne, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council enter into a less than market value lease agreement with the Regional Firefighters Interpretation Centre as per the terms and conditions set out in Table 2 of the staff report dated April 23, 2010.

Deputy Mayor Johns asked whether staff are confident that the RFIC has the ability generate enough revenue to sustain operating costs long term. Ms. Temple indicated that this would be an area of concern, if HRM was not considering returning title to LWF. Should LWF acquire title back from HRM, long term operating costs would become LWF's responsibility.

Councillor Dalrymple advised that he has been meeting with the RFIC over the last year. He indicated that he has copies of their financial statements and five year business plan. Although the business plan is not specifically for HRM's building, operating costs are minimal. He noted that he has provided the RFIC with copies of the heat and electricity bills for the last three years. The RFIC intends to raise some funding through an admission fee of \$1 per visitor. He further noted that there are no staff costs, the Centre will be run on a volunteer basis. The RFIC has indicated that they are financially viable and have a partnership with the community and the LWF Community Hall. The RFIC's long range goal is to move into the Museum in Dartmouth. The Fall River Vision Committee unanimously supports the RFIC.

Ms. Byrne expressed concern that the RFIC could affect the Firefighter's Museum in Yarmouth with respect to donations.

Ms. Temple noted that the Museum in Yarmouth meets certain technical criteria, whereas, the RFIC has indicated that they are an interpretation centre and therefore, does not receive core Provincial funding. HRM intends to confirm LWF's interest in acquiring title back from HRM.

Deputy Mayor Johns asked why HRM is considering relinquishing the property back over to the LWF and not considering selling it to off-set capital costs HRM incurred with the Gordon R. Snow Community Centre. He further asked whether HRM is setting a precedent by relinquishing properties and not selling them.

Ms. Temple advised that the LWF purchased the property from the private market in 1989 and deeded title to Halifax County to use as a fire station. She expressed concern with HRM selling property that was originally donated. She noted that if LWF does not have an interest in the property and would be prepared to send a letter of decline, HRM could then consider selling the building.

Deputy Mayor Johns expressed concern with Fall River having too many Community Centres so close together.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Woo, Ms. Legge advised that should HRM not enter into a lease, they would still be responsible to do some capital repairs if the building was going to be used.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that the LWF, along with the community fundraised approximately \$40,000 to purchase the property from Maritime Telegraph & Telephone Company. The building was converted into a fire station at their expense, as well, LFW purchased all of the fire trucks and equipment needed. When the property was purchased, LFW registered the building, fire trucks and equipment in the name of Halifax County. At amalgamation, all property in the name of Halifax County became HRM's asset. Legally the building, trucks and equipment belong to HRM; however, the LFW feel they still own the building and would appreciate having the property title back.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3 Property Matter: Less than Market Value Lease, Temporary Lease Agreement - Fall River Chapel, 3182 Highway #2 (Former Fall River Recreation Centre)

- A staff report dated April 22, 2010 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle the staff recommendation to enter into a less than market value temporary lease agreement with the Fall River Chapel as per the terms and conditions set out in Table 1 of the staff report dated April 22, 2010. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Information Report - HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Ineligible Applications

- An Information Report dated April 20, 2010.

Ms. Temple indicated that the April 20, 2010 information report would be forwarded to Council as an information item. She indicated that in addition to the ineligible applications, as outlined in the information report, Dance NS/Kinetic Dance Studio has also been deemed ineligible and will be added to the list as number 11. The applicant is delinquent in reporting for a grant for the fiscal year of 2009-2010.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, forward an information report regarding the HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Ineligible Applications to Halifax Regional Council for their review.

During a brief discussion, Ms. Temple advised that applicants are notified in writing of the reason for their ineligibility and may elect to appeal within the two week time frame as per the program guidelines approved by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 7, 2010

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS
May 3, 2010**

1. Information Report - HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Ineligible Applications