

**GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 14, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Mr. Geoff Baker  
Mr. David Woo  
Mr. Andrew Higdon  
Ms. Gina Byrne  
Ms. Monica Jordan  
Mr. David Khokhar

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Brad Johns

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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Duke Tower with Councillor Dalrymple as Chair.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 3, 2010**

**MOVED** by Ms. Gina Byrne, seconded by Councillor Peter Lund, that the minutes of May 3, 2010 be approved, as presented. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED** by Councillor Peter Lund, seconded by Mr. Geoff Baker, that the Order of Business be approved, as presented. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Dalrymple welcomed and introduced the Committee's newest member, David Khokhar, and lead the Committee in roundtable introductions.

**4. DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**4.1 HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund: 2009-2010, Shubenacadie Canal Commission**

- (i) March 16, 2010 Staff Report**
- (ii) Draft Minute Extract of HRM Grants Committee Meeting of May 3, 2010**
- (iii) Correspondence from the Shubenacadie Canal Commission dated May 31, 2010**

This matter was deferred from the May 3, 2010 meeting. The following motion is before the Committee:

**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.**

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects provided an update to the Committee, noting that the Shubenacadie Canal Commission has provided a letter of withdrawal dated May 31, 2010.

Councillor Walker entered the meeting at 1:16 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

Given the correspondence from the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, the Chair declared the motion to be out of order.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Barry Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Andrew Higdon, that the HRM Grants Committee defer consideration of the Community Facility Partnership Fund pending a supplementary report from staff regarding the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, to be provided for the August 9, 2010 meeting.**

The Committee agreed to dispense with the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and hold the next regular Committee meeting on August 9, 2010 to allow for staff preparation of the report.

**MOTION to defer PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**6.1 Municipal Fees - Nova Scotia Housing Trust Request**

- An email extract from Ross Cantwell, Director of Real Estate Consulting, Colliers International (Atlantic) dated June 6, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple advised that the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia is requesting that HRM waive the application fee (\$2,000) associated with both of its proposed affordable housing projects on Gottingen Street. Staff recommend the Committee decline this request because this is not the first request from a non-profit housing group to waive Municipal fees and could potentially set a precedent. She indicated that staff is conducting a review of the Municipal fees related to buildings, events and solid waste/recycling, that are often requested by groups to be discounted. Following this review, staff are considering preparing a guidebook for the HRM Grants Committee that would describe the layout of the Municipal fees, process and options available respecting the possibility of a discounted rate, waiver, deferral payment, etc.

**MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee decline the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia's request that HRM waive the application fee associated with both of its proposed affordable housing project on Gottingen Street and further that the HRM Grants Committee undertake a review of the municipal fees for the non-profit organization.**

The Committee entered into a brief discussion with staff responding to questions.

Staff has indicated that where there are two different development sites, HRM could chose to combine the public information meetings, which would reduce advertising costs. However, it is likely that the public hearings would have to be held separately. If two separate public hearings are held, the estimated cost for advertising is \$3,000.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Recommended Awards**

- A staff report dated May 17, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple provided an overview of the May 17, 2010 staff report, noting that if a Councillor wanted to make an appeal on behalf of an applicant, they could either make a presentation before the Committee or submit the appeal in writing.

The Committee reviewed the applications listed in Attachments 1 of the May 17<sup>th</sup> staff report with staff responding to questions.

Ms. Temple advised the Committee that she has a Conflict of Interest regarding Item #38 - Friends of the Public Gardens - Halifax, as listed in Attachment 1 of the May 17<sup>th</sup> staff report. She noted that Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Community Relations & Cultural Affairs, who was in attendance, would be able to answer the Committee's questions.

During the discussion, the Committee raised concern regarding the persistently higher value of awards to both the Neptune Theatre Foundation and Symphony Nova Scotia.

**MOVED by Councillor Jim Smith, seconded by Ms. Gina Byrne, that staff send a letter to the Neptune Theatre Foundation and Symphony Nova Scotia to advise that any subsequent application to the Community Grants Program, starting in fiscal year 2011-2012, comply with the program's maximum funding guidelines (up to \$5,000 for a project grant and up to \$25,000 for a capital grant). Further, that the Community Grant Program guidelines be applied irrespective of whether or not a separate funding program for professional arts is approved by Halifax Regional Council.**

Further discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Temple provided an overview of the applications not recommended for funding in 2010-2011 as listed in Attachment 2 of the May 17<sup>th</sup> staff report.

**MOVED** by Mr. David Khokhar, seconded by Councillor Peter Lund, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* awards as detailed in the Discussion section of the May 17, 2010 staff report for a total of 73 grants with a combined value of \$464,948 from operating account M311-8004 (Grants & Concessions). **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE - July 5, 2010 (if required)**

It was noted earlier in the meeting that the next meeting would be held on August 9, 2010. See page 4.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**  
**June 14, 2010**

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None.