

GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Monday, July 11, 2011

- PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Deputy Mayor Jim Smith  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Geoff Baker  
Andrew Higdon  
Darren Watts  
David Woo  
Lori Wozney
- REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns  
Bernadette Kehoe
- STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special  
Projects  
Mr. André MacNeil, Financial Consultant  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 13, 2011**

Correction: Mr. Andrew Higdon to be listed under PRESENT and Mr. Geoff Baker to be listed under REGRETS for the June 13, 2011 meeting.  
Page 6: Mr. Watts requested that his comments, in reference to the Auditor General's report: Corporate Grants, Donations and Contributions, read as follows: replace "...important to know where all the money is allocated" with "...to account for multiple streams of HRM dollars including any funds that may come from a Councillors' fund and/or elsewhere."

**MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the minutes of June 13, 2011, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 11.1 Motion of Regional Council of June 28, 2011.
- 11.2 Appeals – Neptune Theatre and Symphony Nova Scotia

**MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSON - NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**7.1 Auditor General's Report: Corporate Grants, Donations and Contributions**

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, advised that staff from the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer are working on a report and workplan in regard to the Auditor General's report.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee defer this matter pending receipt of the staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence - NONE**

### **8.2 Petitions - NONE**

### **8.3 Delegations**

#### **8.3.1 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust – HMCS Sackville**

A pamphlet on the HMCS Sackville and the Canadian Naval Memorial Project were circulated to the Committee at this time.

Ms. Temple introduced the representatives from the HMCS Sackville – Canadian Naval Memorial Project as follows: Mr. Hugh MacNeil, Chair of Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, and Mr. Hugh MacPherson, Chair, Corporate Donor Organization.

Mr. MacNeil and Mr. MacPherson provided an overview of the Canadian Naval Memorial Project to preserve the last Corvette ship, the HMCS Sackville, by creating a permanent enclosed salt water berth (the Naval Memorial Hall) and an adjacent Naval Heritage Centre on the Halifax waterfront located near the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. In 2010, the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (CNMT), the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Waterfront Development Corporation entered into an agreement to advance the project. The first step would be to set up a project office and conduct a national design competition to determine an iconic conventional design that would bring world recognition to “Halifax”. Once the design has been approved, a national tender call would go out with construction expected by 2013-2015. The overall estimated cost for construction is \$80 million; funding for construction will be sought primarily from the Federal government. At this point, the CNMT is seeking funding partners for the National Design Competition. Funding for this phase of the project has been confirmed from the following: Province of Nova Scotia (\$150,000 with an additional \$150,000 in kind), the CNMT (\$100,000), private sector (\$35,000 to date) and ACOA (\$60,000). The CNMT is requesting \$100,000 from HRM over a two year period and would consider a combination of contribution in kind, such as office space in the Halifax Ferry Terminal building, and the remainder as a cash amount toward the design competition phase.

Councillor Dalrymple entered the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Mr. MacNeil and Mr. MacPherson responded to questions from the Committee and provided the following information:

- the site will be Halifax due to the history of Halifax being based on a naval background and that the first Naval College was established in Halifax
- thousands of people visit the SACKVILLE during the summer; the permanent berth will enable year round public access
- a possible joint ticket venture with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic will be considered as was done during the Tall Ships event

- the national Naval Heritage Centre should be located in Halifax; artefacts from Ottawa and the Admiralty would be sent to this destination in regard to the naval history of Canada/Halifax
- whether or not two buildings would be constructed will be decided during the design competition/design approval process as it may be possible to consider an extension to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic; 30,000 square feet would be required for the berth with another 87,000 square feet projected for the Naval Heritage Centre
- the projected \$80 million for construction would be just for construction costs; life cycle costs would be budgeted later
- the project design phase is expected to be at least two years; the construction phase will take approximately three years
- there are sufficient funds to commence the project but not for completion; if they were not required to fund the architectural design aspect they would be within 85% of the funding goal.

Councillor Walker, Chair, thanked Mr. MacNeil and Mr. MacPherson for their presentation.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of providing potential funding for this project.**

Ms. Temple noted that an official application (letter) from the group, including square footage requirement for office space, would be required in order for staff to prepare a report on funding options.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 Requests from Non-Profit Organizations for Waiver or Discounted Municipal Fees**

The May 10, 2011 Information Report was before the Committee.

Discussion ensued on the Information Report in regard to the existing policy for the charge/discount/waiver of municipal fees.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Temple explained that the Committee could: forward the report to Regional Council as an Information Report, or; request that staff prepare a Supplementary Report including recommendation(s) such as policy proposals. She suggested that the issue of “charge back” of fees be referred to staff in the Cultural Affairs/Civic Events business unit as it was out of the Grants Committee’s domain.

Councillor Watts noted that the Information Report does outline the rationale, however; she commented that groups contact her questioning why they were being charged fees when other cities do not charge even if the event is a for profit not a charitable event.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Grants Committee request a staff report clarifying the existing policy in regard to municipal fees and the rationale for decisions made to waive/discount those fees.**

The report is to respond to questions such as:

- Table 1, Page 6 of the Information Report: explanation for the fluctuation in costs for civic events such as Bedford Days that went from \$5,000 in 2004 to \$15,000 in 2008; what are the incremental costs for having a civic event
- explanation for municipal services in relation to events; how are those decisions managed in regard to services required for an event
- should HRM be charging municipal fees to Civic Events for an HRM Civic Event such as Natal Day/Canada Day that is organized and delivered by HRM
- consideration to be given to generating a policy document in regard to how to administer certain charges to certain groups
- how can event organizers be assisted in reducing their costs by having such things as fire inspections done during business hours when the costs would be less than having an inspection done on a weekend.
- the Committee's preference is that some type of fee or concession be charged whether the group or HRM pay the fee as there is an expense on the accounting side specifically in regard to solid waste/refuse removal
- could security be provided by private security guards; is security required to be provided by Halifax Regional Police/RCMP; does this requirement/agreement differ between the urban/suburban/rural areas
- consider other cities comparable in size to Halifax to determine what they do in regard to municipal fees (in kind/tax breaks offered etc.).

Ms. Temple noted that the majority of the responses would be required from HRM's Civic Events section.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. MOTIONS - NONE**

**11. ADDED ITEMS**

**11.1 Motion of Regional Council from June 28, 2011**

A copy of the June 28, 2011 Regional Council motion in regard to the HRM Community Grants Program 2011-12 Recommended Awards was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple advised that the appeals from Regional Council are included in the appeals report along with all other appeals. The deadline for appeals is July 18, 2011 following which staff will compile a report for the Grants Committee's next meeting.

Councillor Watts clarified that the June 28<sup>th</sup> motion of Regional Council did not change the total amount of awards approved, therefore; the \$20,000 award for the Vedanta Ashram Society has not been authorized to be paid.

Ms. Temple advised that the Vedanta Ashram Society award will be included in the report.

Discussion ensued in regard to the process as to how and when the Councillor/group would be advised of the timeline and requirement for the additional information to be provided to Grant Program staff.

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Andrew Higdon that the Grants Committee extend the appeal period to July 18<sup>th</sup> for those Councillors who requested items be referred back to the Grants Committee at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Council session to ensure that they, and the groups involved, are aware that they must submit information to staff by July 18<sup>th</sup> in regard to their reason(s) for the appeal.**

Ms. Temple was requested to contact the Councillors/groups involved to advise them of the deadline and information requirements.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **11.2 Appeals – Neptune Theatre and Symphony Nova Scotia**

A copy of the written requests for presentation to the Grants Committee from Neptune Theatre and Symphony Nova Scotia were before the Committee.

Ms. Temple clarified that the requests were for a presentation to the Grants Committee and were not considered appeals at this point.

**MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith that the Grants Committee decline the Neptune Theatre's and Symphony Nova Scotia's requests for presentation pending receipt of the Appeals report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**13. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 8, 2011 (If required)**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant



**INFORMATION ITEMS - NONE**