

HRM GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 4, 2011

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 2:01p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Councillor Russell Walker, Chair, welcomed the new members and advised that remuneration is provided for parking expenses. Parking receipts to be submitted to Ms. Peta-Jane Temple.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 7, 2011

Revision: Clarification to be provided that the suspension of funding to the Partnership Fund for one year was due to fiscal constraints and not a desire to do away with the fund.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Geoff Baker, that the minutes of March 7, 2011, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Deputy Mayor Smith entered the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

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

Addition: Information Item 1 – Councillor Lund

MOVED by Mr. Woo, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale - 9 Leary's Cove Road, East Dover (PID#40066383) to the Village Green Recreation Society

A report dated January 5, 2011 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, presented the report.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council enter into an Agreement of

Purchase and Sale with the Village Green Recreation Society for the purchase of 9 Leary's Cove Road, East Dover, for the sum of \$12,489.18 plus cost of sale, and subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Discussion section of the January 5, 2011 staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Tax Appeal: Anglican Diocese of PEI & Nova Scotia – St. Paul's Church, Seabright, Lot 2, St. Paul's Lane ANN#09666672

A report dated December 1, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, assisted by Mr. André MacNeil, Financial Consultant, Finance, presented the report.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee:

- 1. Defer the request for full exemption from St. Paul's Anglican Church, Seabright, for fiscal year 2010-2011 to next year's *Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Program*.**
- 2. Decline the request for a grant in the amount of \$762 to pay outstanding real property taxes and refer the appeal to HRM Finance (Revenue Division) to negotiate a settlement.**

In response to concerns raised by Members of the Committee, Ms. Temple explained that:

- the deadline for filing a 2010 appeal has passed
- the Anglican Diocese have been advised to contact the provincial Registry of Deeds office to confirm the number of lots and land configuration
- if there was an error on HRM's part, a retroactive correction would be possible
- if the error was on the part of the Diocese's, there are no grounds for waiving property taxes, however; proceeding to tax sale could be waived and the property could be considered in next year's Property Tax Exemption program.

Ms. Temple advised that the Diocese has confirmed that they do intend to follow-up with the Registry of Deeds and are being pro-active to resolve the situation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Rocky Lake Development Association – Tax Update

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, assisted by Mr. André MacNeil, Financial Consultant, provided a verbal update on the Rocky Lake Development Association's (RLDA) tax situation advising that RLDA has not met the conditions set out by Regional Council for tax assistance. The property has been

removed from the Tax Sale list pending the imminent sale of a portion of the property which could assist with the tax arrears. Staff will ensure that the RLDA has received the new application form for 2011 as they may re-apply for tax reduction/conversion.

7.4 Community Grants Program 2011-12 - Adjudication of Eligibility

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, provided a verbal update on the Community Grants Program 2011-12 – Adjudication of Eligibility noting that a report would be before the Committee at the May meeting. The following cases are being declined support at this time as they do not meet the eligibility criteria:

1. Surplus school property: a request was received from one of the four surplus schools for \$25,000 to assist with the “anticipated take over”. This situation could result in a potential conflict of interest situation for HRM as it may be considered preferential treatment for this group. The same offer would have to be available to all as other proponents may be placed at a disadvantage if not offered the same option. Staff reviewed this issue with the HRM Procurement Process and determined that there are clear grounds for disqualification
2. A new non profit organization, formed from an existing theatre event, has only been registered as a non profit since January 2011, therefore; does not meet the one year registration requirement. The funding request is for a computer and website development. The new society’s request is being declined and referred to the HRM Festival & Events program.
3. A Theatre Group’s request is being declined as it is a request for prepaid expenses (newspaper advertisement). The Grant program does not pay debt nor provide funding to prepay expenses.
4. FOIPOP (Freedom of Information) request– a standard clause will be included in the HRM Grant Program Guidebooks/applications to advise applicants that they are entering public domain.
5. Confirmation of Cost Sharing – in future, projects that indicate cost sharing will include a conditional term in the form of a letter that the group would sign indicating that the cost share funding would be up to a maximum dollar amount or a percentage amount of the project cost. This would help to alleviate situations such as: a group requests \$10,000 for an \$18,000 project and then at year end advises that they scaled back the project although the full \$10,000 grant from HRM was required plus \$1,000 of their own money.

The above items will be outlined in the report expected for the May 2, 2011 meeting.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Information Item 1 – Canadian Naval Memorial Trust

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Mr. Geoff Baker that the Grants Committee forward the Information Report on the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust - Funding Request for Design Competition: Naval Memorial/Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, to Halifax Regional Council for their information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 2, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Canadian Naval Memorial Trust – Funding Request for Design Competition:
Naval Memorial / Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.