

HRM GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 2, 2011

- PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice-Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Geoff Baker
Bernadette Kehoe
Darren Watts
David Woo
Lori Wozney
- REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
Deputy Mayor Jim Smith
- 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 / WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

See Added Item 8.3, page 5.

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

- Addition:
- 8.1 Non-Profit Tax Exemptions 2010
 - 8.2 YWCA Playground
 - 8.3 Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2011
 - 8.4 Auditor General's Report: Grants, Donations and Contributions
 - 8.5 Information Item 1: HRM Community Grants Program 2011-2012:
Ineligible Applications
 - 8.6 Orientation Session

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts 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

In response to Mr. Watts' inquiry for a status update in regard to the Committee's report forwarded to Regional Council on the Canadian Naval Memorial matter, Councillor Walker advised that Regional Council had accepted the Information Report. No further action was requested.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Community Grants Program 2011-12 - Appeal: Symphony Nova Scotia and Neptune Theatre Foundation

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, provided a verbal update on this matter. She advised that since the notice of adherence to the program guidelines had not been communicated to the Symphony Nova Scotia and Neptune Theatre applicants prior to this year's application process both applicants were offered the opportunity to appeal. Both groups have opted to follow the established appeal

process and will await the decision of Regional Council. The applications will be reviewed by staff and included in the report expected for the Committee's June meeting.

7.2 Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations 2010 – Appeal. Titans Gymnastics & Trampoline Club

A Supplementary Report dated January 12, 2011 was before the Committee.

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

Councillor Watts explained that she was advised that there had been a new build at the location, therefore; concern was expressed that the property assessment would be quite significant. She suggested that the group be contacted and advised to contact the HRM Finance department in regard to a payment program for the property taxes.

In response to a question by Mr. Watts, Ms. Temple advised that she was not sure if there were other grants going to the Titans Gymnastics & Trampoline Club, however; there was no core capital being provided.

Councillor Dalrymple suggested that the group contact their local MLA in regard to the provincial program that offered tax exemption to the Lake District Recreation Association, however; he was uncertain if that provincial legislation was still in existence.

Councillor Watts expressed concern with the potential for groups contacting the province requesting property tax exemptions when it would affect HRM not the province. She suggested that HRM intervene and advise the province that HRM does not agree with the province granting property tax exemptions, although, as a District Councillor, she would want the groups to make the request.

In response to a question by Councillor Watts, Ms. Temple advised that staff would await Regional Council's decision prior to contacting the group in regard to a potential payment plan.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Grants Committee decline the appeal from the Titans Gymnastics & Trampoline Club requesting full tax exemption in fiscal year 2010-2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Non Profit Tax Exemptions 2010

A Memorandum dated April 26, 2011 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple presented the Memorandum and confirmed that the following groups have not provided the required renewal form/documentation by the required deadline: Chezzetcook & District Lions Club; Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society; North Preston Medical Society; Ostrea Lake Wharf Preservation Society; Scouts Canada and Tangier Deanery.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grant Committee recommend that staff issue a letter of notice advising of the intent to recommend removal from the Non Profit Tax Exemption program to the following six groups, identified in the April 26, 2011 Memorandum, as they have not provided the mandatory renewal form and documentation by the required deadline: Chezzetcook & District Lions Club; Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society; North Preston Medical Society; Ostrea Lake Wharf Preservation Society; Scouts Canada and Tangier Deanery.

Ms. Temple advised that every attempt has been made to contact the groups to ensure they were aware of the rules in regard to the required documentation and deadlines. Adequate time had also been provided, September 1, 2010 to May 1, 2011, however, no response/documentation has been received.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 YWCA Playground

A copy of e-mails from Mr. Arthur Irving in regard to a funding request for completion of the YWCA Playground at 4 Skeena Street, Halifax, were before the Committee.

Ms. PJ Temple provided a verbal update on this matter noting that the YWCA is requesting \$975 to complete a playground for the HERizons program as part of their YWCA Wish Program outreach support.

Councillor Walker noted that he has staff searching to determine whether or not the address of the playground is located on private property (apartment building) or a public area.

MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Grants Committee decline the request for funding due to the late application and request that staff forward a letter to the YWCA advising of the decline. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3 Approval of April 4, 2011 Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Mr. Geoff Baker that the minutes of April 4, 2011, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.4 Auditor General's Report on Grants, Donations, Contributions

The Committee requested that the Auditor General's report on Corporate Grants, Donations and Contributions be added to the June agenda for review/comment by the Committee.

8.5 Information Item 1 - HRM Community Grants Program 2011-2012: Ineligible Applications

MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Mr. David Woo that the Grants Committee accept the Information Report dated April 4, 2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question by Mr. David Woo, Councillor Dalrymple offered to forward a list of various grant application sites from the federal/provincial/municipal/ private companies.

8.6 Orientation Session

The Committee requested that staff provide an Orientation session for the new/returning members of the Grants Committee immediately following the June 6th meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 6, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. HRM Community Grants Program 2011-2012: Ineligible Applications

INFORMATION ITEMS

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