

GRANTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2012

- PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Mr. Darren Watts  
Ms. Kate Watson  
Ms. Lori Wozney  
Mr. David Woo  
Mr. Andrew Higdon  
Mr. Geoff Baker
- REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
- STAFF: Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Community Development and Partnership  
Mr. André MacNeil, Senior Financial Consultant, Finance  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2012.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE.....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS.....	3
	6.1 Correspondence.....	3
	6.1.1 Fishermen’s Cove Whale Sculpture Grant.....	3
	6.2 Petitions - NONE.....	4
	6.3 Delegations - NONE.....	4
7.	REPORTS.....	4
	7.1 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust - Funding Request.....	4
8.	ADDED ITEMS.....	5
	8.1 Addendum to By-Law T-228 Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeals 2011-2012 Supplementary Report.....	5
	8.2 Information Item 1(d) re: Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women & Children.....	6
9.	NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE.....	7
10.	NEXT MEETING DATE – April 2, 2012.....	7
11.	ADJOURNMENT.....	7

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Dalrymple, 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 – January 9, 2012**

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the minutes of January 9, 2012, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Addendum to By-Law T-228 Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeals 2011-2012 Supplementary Report
- 8.2 Information Item 1(d) re: Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women & Children

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

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

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 Fishermen's Cove Whale Sculpture Grant**

A copy of an e-mail correspondence from the Fishermen's Cove Board of Director's was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, provided a verbal overview on the \$5,000 grant awarded in 2005 for an outdoor sculpture intended for Fishermen's Cove and the proposed repayment plan as put forward by the new Board of Directors.

**MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by Mr. Andrew Higdon that the Grants Committee request staff accept the payment plan as proposed by the Board of Directors for Fishermen's Cove for repayment of a \$5,000 grant intended**

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**for a whale sculpture as follows: monthly payments of \$500.00 to commence on March 15, 2012 with the final payment on December 15, 2012.**

In response to a question by Councillor Watts, Ms. Temple advised that this would be precedent setting but in a positive way as it was the Board of Directors who approached HRM with a repayment plan. The repayments would be sent to the Recovery Fund that is separate from the grant program, however; those funds could potentially be drawn forward to the current year's community grants program or, if not used, would return to a general recovery fund. Staff could include the option for a repayment plan in the annual delinquent account report coming forward to the Committee. Once the draft policy, including the option for a repayment plan for delinquent accounts, is approved by the Committee and Regional Council, it would be incorporated into the program guidelines for the public's information.

Councillor Watts noted that she would prefer if the returned funds were kept in a separate account that could then be re-used by the community grants program for matters such as appeals. Ms. Temple advised that monies could not be held nor carried forward unless approved by Regional Council for a capital project.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6.2 Petitions - NONE**

**6.3 Delegations - NONE**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust - Funding Request**

The January 9, 2012 report was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple presented the report. She then responded to questions of clarification from members of the Committee.

**MOVED by Mr. David Woo, seconded by Councillor Russell Walker that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle:**

- 1. A capital grant of \$50,000 from account M311-8004 Community Grant Program to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust towards professional fees for an international design competition in relation to the proposed Naval Memorial Hall in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the Discussion section of the January 9, 2012 report; and,**
- 2. Approve assignment of an HRM representative to serve on the Design Competition Committee.**

Discussion ensued on the motion.

Members of the Committee questioned the timeline for payment of the funding requested being in the current fiscal year or next budget year and whether or not the group would be applying for additional funding in the upcoming year.

Ms. Temple confirmed that the funding would come from the balance remaining in the 2011/12 project budget but could be carried forward to 2013. The group would be eligible to submit a new application for the next year's program as per any other applicant. Options for the Committee's consideration are for approval in principle of \$50,000 from the 2011/12 fiscal year, or; to carry the request forward to the next fiscal year with the payout to be determined by the Committee pending further information/confirmation of a threshold for the other funding required for the actual project.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Mr. Woo that the motion be amended by including the clarification that the grant be a *one time* capital grant. MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

With the agreement of the Mover and Secunder, the motion was further amended to include that payment of any funding awarded be conditional upon a future payment schedule subject to additional information as follows: a threshold to be met for funds to be released, confirmation that funds are to be used for the design competition itself and not for general office administration; reassurance / probability of obtaining future capital funding and timeline.

The amended motion now reads as follows:

**MOVED by David Woo, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle:**

- 1. A one time capital grant of \$50,000 from account M311-8004 Community Grant Program to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, conditional upon future payment schedule subject to additional information requested by the Grants Committee, towards professional fees for an international design competition in relation to the proposed Naval Memorial Hall in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the Discussion section of the January 9, 2012 report; and,**
- 2. Approve assignment of an HRM representative to serve on the Design Competition Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

- 8.1 Addendum to By-Law T-228 Respecting Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations: Appeals 2011-2012 Supplementary Report**

The February 15, 2012 Supplementary Report on the Addendum to By-Law T-228 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Mr. Andrew Higdon that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:**

- 1. The conditional reinstatement of tax exemption status for the Chezzetcook & District Lions Club, Musquodoboit Harbour Heritage Society, Ostrea Lake Wharf Preservation Society, and the North Preston Medical Society, effective April 1, 2011, as detailed in the Discussion section of the February 15, 2012 report for a total combined cost of \$12,882;**
- 2. The decline of the request for partial tax exemption from the Veritas Society;**
- 3. The deferral of the request for a further increase in exemption level for Dartmouth Adult Services Centre to the 2012-2013 tax exemption program; and**
- 4. Addendum to By-Law T-228 (Attachment 1).**

Councillor Dalrymple, with the Committee's approval, invited Councillor Hendsbee to speak to the appeal at this time.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that in future, the local Councillor be advised of any similar situations in order to have a more active role with the groups in their area. He further suggested that the By-Law be redrafted in a more readable format for the public such as identifying the various categories and exemptions and including the dollar amount of the exemption for transparency.

Councillor Walker noted an error in the figure I Recommendation 1 noting that the amount should be \$12,883 not \$12,882.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.2 Information Item 1(d) re: Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women & Children**

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, presented a verbal update on the less than market value sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women and Children.

Discussion ensued with the following motion being placed: **MOVED by Councillor Jennifer Watts, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts that the Grants Committee request staff to provide a report for the April meeting on the Property Matter: Less than**

**Market Value Sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax to Adsum Association for Women & Children, and; if required, a special meeting of the Grants Committee be called to deal with this item in advance of the April 2nd meeting date. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

9. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE
10. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 2, 2012
11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant

## INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Upcoming Agenda Items:
  - a) Recurring Annual Awards – Draft Process – **Spring 2012**
  - b) Non-Profit Tax in Comparable Municipalities – **Spring / Fall 2012**
  - c) Proposed Tax Exemption Program Review – **Spring / Fall 2012**
  - d) Property Matter: Proposed Less than Market Value Sale of 2421 Brunswick Street, Halifax, to Adsum Association for Women & Children – **Spring 2012 Added to March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.**
  - e) By-Law T-228 – Referred from February 14, 2012 Regional Council session – **April 2012 Added to March 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.**
2. Letter to Symphony Nova Scotia re: HRM Community Grants Program
3. Letter to Neptune Theatre Foundation re: HRM Community Grants Program