



**Grants Committee  
MINUTES  
April 14, 2014**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Matt Whitman  
Mr. Darren Watts  
Ms. Kate Watson  
Mr. Donald Dodge
- REGRETS:** Mr. Francis Glover  
Mr. Jason Cooke
- NOT PRESENT:** Ms. Corinne Peters
- STAFF:** Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects,  
Finance and ICT  
Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager, Planning &  
Infrastructure  
Mr. Dave Reage, Manager, Planning & Scheduling  
Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/HRMGrantsCommittee.html>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, and the Committee adjourned at 1:57 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**1.1 Declaration of Chair/Election of Vice Chair**

This item was deferred to later in the meeting. Refer to page 4.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 3, 2014**

**MOVED by Ms. Kate Watson, seconded by Mr. Donald Dodge, that the Grants Committee minutes of March 3, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee agreed to change the order of business, to allow for Councillor Hendsbee to join the meeting. Items 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4 were agreed to be dealt with first, followed by Items 1.1 and 7.1.

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts, that the order of business be approved as amended. 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 - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentation - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 HRM Rural Transit Funding Program**

This item was deferred to later in the meeting. Refer to page 4.

**7.2 Former Allen Heights Fire Station #57: Lease Request Lot A3-PID#40057465, 5680 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Head of St. Margaret's Bay**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 3, 2014.

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Dalrymple, that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve:**

- 1. Demolition of the former fire station building located at 5680 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Head of St. Margaret's Bay, and retention of vacant land for future municipal recreational use; and**
- 2. Decline the request from the Safety Minded ATV Association to lease the former Fire Station #57 building based on site condition, operating viability, and HRM's future operational requirements.**

Councillor Whitman inquired whether the playground on the property would be moved. Ms. Temple advised if Regional Council were to approve the recommendation, a site plan would be completed and the playground may be moved. Councillor Whitman suggested that there are other priorities in that area.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.3 Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Program Appeal – The Deanery Project**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Kim Thompson, Executive Director, The Deanery Project, dated March 20, 2014.

Ms. Temple suggested that the Committee request that staff prepare a report looking into this appeal further.

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts, that the Grants Committee refer this matter for a staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.4 2014 Community Grants Program – Adjudication of Eligibility – Music Liberatory**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Tamar Dina, Music Liberatory, dated March 15, 2014.

Ms. Temple clarified that the party was informed verbally that they were ineligible based on several issues, including a lack of board members, incomplete documentation, and no by-laws or

articles of incorporation. She recommended that the applicant be deemed ineligible for the 2014 program, noting that staff will work with them to help them achieve eligibility for next year.

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Mr. Donald Dodge, that the Grants Committee that the Music Liberatory be deemed ineligible for the 2014 Community Grants Program. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **1.1 Declaration of Chair/Election of Vice Chair**

Councillor Walker advised that the Chair of the Grants Committee is appointed by the Audit & Finance Standing Committee, which re-elected Councillor Walker as Chair of the Grants Committee at their April 16, 2014 meeting, for a one year term.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Grants Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts, that Councillor Dalrymple be nominated Vice Chair of the Grants Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

**MOVED by Mr. Darren Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair declared Councillor Dalrymple the Vice Chair of the Grants Committee.

### **7.1 HRM Rural Transit Funding Program**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 4, 2014.
- Email correspondence from Howard D. Nash dated April 9, 2014

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects, reviewed the proposed HRM Rural Transit Funding Program, as outlined in the April 4, 2014 staff report.

Responding to questions from the Chair, Ms. Hughes clarified that pending approval of this program, MusGo Rider could apply for funding for 2014/15 and the program would be used on an ongoing basis.

Responding to questions from Councillor Whitman, Ms. Hughes indicated that MusGo Rider has received the \$10,000 grant approved by Regional Council in October 2012. She further clarified that another community transit organization, Bay Rides, has not requested any funds yet, although their business plan indicates requesting funding from HRM for the 2015/16 fiscal year. Ms. Hughes explained that Bay Rides is in a pre-application stage for provincial NS Trip funding.

Councillor Dalrymple inquired as to the expectations for applications to the program, and the estimated funds required, as well as clarification on the funding source. Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager, clarified that the funding source will be through parking permits in residential areas, which currently brings in close to \$2,000 per month. He noted that the revenue source is in its infancy, and may include revenue from parking pay stations, pending implementation of that program.

The Committee discussed the recent provincial budget, which allocated two million dollars for transit in HRM, and a separate allocation of funds for rural community transit outside of HRM.

Councillor Dalrymple spoke in favour of the program, noting that it is a start and will be better when further funding sources are identified.

Councillor Hendsbee commented that this program is a start, but it is not enough, and noted frustration at how long this took. He suggested that funding for the program should be coming from the regional transportation tax rate. Councillor Hendsbee indicated that he would like to see a comparison of the proposed program and the provincial CTAP funding, noting concern that there may be interpretation of the CTAP criteria that could disqualify community transit organizations from receiving both, in particular with regard to operational costs such as paying for maintenance and fuel, etc. Re: paying for maintenance and fuel, etc. He suggested that the program should also cover overhead costs such as promotional expenses, insurance, legal fees, and vehicle registration. He noted caution about paying staff wages through public funds, as per concerns previously raised with the ATU.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, Finance, clarified that there is a clause in the Metro Transit collective agreement which prohibits contracting out of transit services. He noted that funding the program through the regional transportation tax rate may be too close to Metro Transit.

Mr. Dave Reage, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, Metro Transit, clarified that there is nothing in the collective agreement that prevents HRM from funding a service like this, although the collective agreement indicates that HRM could not contract out an existing service.

Mr. Darren Watts asked for clarification as to why this matter is before the Grants Committee. Mr. Fisher explained that the Committee are the subject matter experts when it comes to grants matters, and the program was developed by transit staff, which has the operational expertise when it comes to transit matters, and the program is before the Committee for a recommendation in relation to the grants portion of the program. Ms. Hughes further clarified that the program will be administered by staff, and on a go forward basis applications will not come before the Grants Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Darren Watts, that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program (Attachment A) as described in the April 4, 2014 report, which will replace the HRM Community Based Transit Funding Program approved by Regional Council on March 26, 2013.**

Ms. Kate Watson spoke in favour of the program, noting that it seems staff has tried to make the program clear and easy for organizations applying. She noted that the funding source is tenuous, and indicated that she has concerns about the adequacy of funding required.

The Chair suggested that the Committee recommend approval of the program and hold a discussion at a later date on the pool of funding.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Kate Watson, that the Grants Committee requests a staff report exploring any other possible funding mechanisms or sources to fund the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program.**

Mr. Fisher commented that staff don't want to be scrambling each year to come up with funding for the program, and will look at options for further funding sources. He suggested that a review of the program for 2015/16 may be helpful, suggesting that recipients may need to make adjustments to their applications as well by that time.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that the motion be amended to read: That the Grants Committee requests a staff report exploring any other possible funding mechanisms or sources to fund the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program, and that the report also explore the following suggestions:**

- 1. That \$250,000 of the \$2 million allocated in the provincial budget for HRM transit be earmarked to fund rural transportation solutions.**
- 2. That the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program funds match provincial NS Trip and CTAP program funding.**
- 3. That a rural transportation contribution fund be set up similar to Facility Lease Agreements, where community organizations can have their operational costs directly subsidized.**
- 4. That a portion of the Regional Transportation tax rate be allocated for rural transportation solutions.**

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that the intent of the motion is for these additional recommendations to be added over and above the proposed program. It was suggested that the report also go to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for their information.

Ms. Hughes advised that staff did talk to provincial staff which administered the CTAP funding and learned that CTAP funding is based on population density. The proposed program was developed to be reflective of the true costs of the service, based on a flat rate of \$0.50/km for every vehicle kilometer logged in-service within HRM.

**AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, May 5, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, main floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

---

**INFORMATION ITEMS - None**

---