



**GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 9, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Darren Watts
Ms. Kate Watson
Mr. Donald Dodge
Mr. Jason Cooke

ABSENT: Mr. Francis Glover

STAFF: Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Contributions
Ms. Krista Vining, 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/June92014GrantsCommitteeagenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 5, 2014

A correction was noted that Councillor Hendsbee had seconded the motion for Item 7.1 Community Grants Program 2014-15: Recommended Awards, not Ms. Watson. A further correction was noted that Councillor Hendsbee be listed as present on the cover page.

MOVED by Mr. Watts, seconded by Ms. Watson, that the Grants Committee minutes of May 5, 2014 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, suggested that Information Item 1 – Information Report dated May 8, 2014 “Community Grants Program 2014: Arts & Crafts Sector – Not Recommended for Funding” be included under Item 7.1, should the Committee have any questions; to which the Committee agreed.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Watts, that the agenda 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 – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Community Grants Program 2014-15: Arts & Crafts Sector – Recommended Awards

The following was before the Committee:

- A supplementary staff recommendation report dated May 1, 2014
- A staff information report dated May 8, 2014 “Community Grants Program 2014: Arts & Crafts Sector – Not Recommended for Funding” (Information Item 1)

Ms. Temple reviewed the List of Recommended Grants: Arts & Crafts Sector (Attachment 1 of the May 1, 2014 staff report) item by item.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve ten (10) awards for a

combined total of \$50,600 as detailed in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 1, 2014 from opening account M311-8004 Community Grants Program. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the May 8, 2014 staff information report “Community Grants Program 2014: Arts & Crafts Sector – Not Recommended for Funding” (Information Item 1) brought forward during the approval of the agenda. Ms. Temple responded to questions of clarification.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Watts that the Grants Committee refer the May 8, 2014 staff information report “Community Grants Program 2014: Arts & Crafts Sector – Not Recommended for Funding” (Information Item 1) to Regional Council for information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report to Halifax Regional Council dated November 18, 2013
- A staff recommendation report to Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee dated April 10, 2014

Ms. Temple provided background around the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemoration Plan 2017. Ms. Temple advised that a posting would be made by the Clerk’s Office calling for expressions of interest for citizen nominations to the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee. She clarified that the reason staff recommended separate funding for the 100th anniversary was because the Halifax Explosion has a broad impact and would include parts of the non-profit sector that would not generally be funded under the Community Grants Program. She noted that it would be a time-limited program for approximately one to two years. Once the advisory committee was in place, and their terms of reference approved, the Clerk’s Office would convene the committee, who would meet quarterly and more frequently moving forward into 2017. Ms. Temple anticipated coming back to the Grants Committee with questions around process and decision making; as well, that staff would be seeking input around the design.

The Committee entered into a discussion with staff responding to questions.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed an interest in having the Halifax Foundation engaged in the process, either as a member of the ad hoc advisory committee or as a champion part of the process with HRM staff. Ms. Temple indicated that she would look into the Halifax Foundation’s criteria and provide an information report.

Both Councillors Walker and Dalrymple were concerned with the number of Committees involved around the funding piece for the anniversary, as well as the potential impact it would have on the Grants budget. Ms. Temple suggested that if a separate program is able to be setup with criteria, it would ensure there was no duplication between the Committees.

Councillor Hendsbee further expressed having the Halifax Memorial Library engaged in the Halifax Explosion 100th anniversary process.

Councillor Whitman entered the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

7.3 Proposed Revisions to Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program – staff presentation – Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation “Non-Profit Tax Relief” dated June 9, 2014

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning delivered the presentation around non-profit tax relief which outlined a recommended approach of having two key categories: 1) Housing and Homelessness and 2) Community Non-Profit. During the presentation, Mr. Fisher clarified that the objective is to help deal with the backlog for non-profits who would otherwise be eligible for the program but could not get on to it because of financing and budgeting restrictions.

The Committee entered into a discussion with Mr. Fisher and Ms. Temple responding to questions around the process for the two categories.

Mr. Fisher noted the importance of being able to define the categories so they are not subjective, and in doing so, the Committee needs to consider the different tax rates. He pointed out that minimum tax rate would affect the properties.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Hendsbee regarding defining affordable housing, Ms. Temple advised that the definition under the Cooperative Branch would be used to define a non-profit cooperative. She indicated that criteria could be setup around the screening process for applicants to the program. Mr. Fisher added that the Committee would have to look at the appropriate level of tax to put on low income housing groups.

The discussion ensued with a suggestion being made to have a five year phased in transition period.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Grants Committee direct staff to return with draft tax rates for the Housing and Community Model showing the impact by each non-profit.

In response to a question raised around the transition phase, Mr. Fisher advised that this was included as part of the direction to staff in the Committee’s motion of March 3, 2014.

It was noted that staff would be back to the Committee in July 2014 for further discussion on proposed revisions to the program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday, July 21, 2014 (special), 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.,
Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Community Grants Program 2014: Arts & Crafts Sector – Not Recommended for Funding**
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