



**Grants Committee
MINUTES
May 4, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Donald Dodge
Ms. Linda MacKay
Ms. Sara Colburne
Ms. Janice Kenney
Ms. Ratnam Mohan

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
Mr. John Falkenham

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, Finance and ICT
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions, Finance and ICT
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk

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.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., and adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Donald Dodge, that the Grants Committee minutes of March 2, 2015, be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

Information item no. 1 was added to the agenda as item 7.1.2, for discussion.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Sara Colburne, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

Councillor Hendsbee joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

5.1 Orientation Presentation for Grants Committee members

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the staff presentation

Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of new members.

Ms. Peta Jane Temple, Team Lead – Tax, Grants, & Special Events, presented an orientation of the Municipality's Grants and Contributions programs. Staff responded to questions from the Committee.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Community Grants Program 2015-2016: Recommended Awards

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation/information report dated April 20, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Grants Committee recommend Regional Council:

1. **Approve fifty-seven (57) awards for a combined total of \$374,387 as detailed in Attachment 2 of the April 20, 2015, report from operating account M311-8004 Community Grants Program;**
2. **Refer the application from the Preston Area Housing Fund to staff for further review.**

Councillor Hendsbee noted that the Preston Area Housing Fund was incorrectly referred to as the North Preston Housing Trust in recommendation no. 2 of the April 20, 2015 staff report.

Ms. Temple noted that a lower than normal intake of applications was received this year. She discussed the overview of review methodology set out in Attachment 1 of the staff report.

At the request of Councillor Dalrymple, Ms. Temple and Mr. Greechan clarified the nature of grants applications for Royal Canadian Legion Branches, specifically with regard to the recommended award for the Royal Canadian Legion: Eastern Marine Branch 161 – Gaetz Brook (recommendation #25). They explained that Nunavut Command is the umbrella organization for Legion Branches in this area, and has one charitable number for all of the Branches within its jurisdiction. Branch 161 obtained permission from Nunavut Command to apply for this community grant using the charitable number, which avoids duplication of Branches applying for the same grant with one charitable number.

At the request of Ms. MacKay, Ms. Temple and Mr. Greechan explained that applicants applying for a grant to exterior work to a Registered Municipal Heritage Property must obtain approval for the work from the Heritage Planner prior to the grant funding being released, due to restrictions on the type of work that can be done to these properties.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired whether the balance of the community grants program this year should be held over for the grants program under development to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. Ms. Temple indicated that this program will be separate from the community grants program.

Staff responded to questions of clarification regarding specific applications.

Ms. Temple noted a correction to Attachment 3 of the staff report, removing the *Black Ice Hockey & Sports Hall of Fame* from the table of Community Grants Program Recommended Awards: Previous Awards 2010 to 2014. This application is not recommended for funding, as set out under number 27 of the April 21, 2015 information report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Community Grants Program: Applications Not Recommended For Funding (Information Item No. 1)

The following was before the Committee:

- An Information Report dated April 21, 2015

Ms. Temple explained that there is no process for appeal of a refusal of a grant application, and instead, if any member of the Committee feels that an application should be reconsidered, the Committee can recommend to Regional Council that the application be referred back to staff for further review.

Councillor Dalrymple declared a conflict of interest, noting that he is a member of the Waverley Amateur Athletic Association. Ms. Temple advised that if any member is associated with a group that has an application before the Committee for recommendation, that member should declare a conflict of interest and remove themselves from the debate and the vote.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Temple indicated that there are ineligible expenses that are not funded by the Community Grants Program, which are outlined in the guidebook. She and Mr.

Greechan advised that applicants are encouraged to contact them if they require assistance with the application or reporting process.

Staff responded to questions of clarification regarding specific applications.

Ms. Temple indicated that the Preston Area Housing Fund is working with the Metro Housing Authority to make repairs to the community's housing stock. She noted that there are questions about property ownership, cost sharing, and the opportunity for provincial funding eligibility. Ms. Temple advised that staff would like to have an opportunity to further review this application, which is why it is recommended to be referred back to staff for further review.

Councillor Hendsbee submitted to Ms. Temple the reporting requirements for the 2014 grant on behalf of the Deanery Project Cooperative Limited, which he indicated he received that morning. He inquired whether this would reinstate their eligibility for consideration in the 2015/16 program. Ms. Temple advised that to reinstate their eligibility, it would require a motion by the Committee to recommend that Regional Council refer the Deanery application back to staff for reconsideration.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council refer the application from the Deanery Project Cooperative Limited to staff for reconsideration.

The Committee discussed the fairness and equitability of recommending referral of one application back to staff, and not others. Ms. Temple cautioned against referring applications from organizations which completed their reporting requirements after the deadline back to staff, as this may make the importance of reporting on time obsolete. She noted that staff do have the ability to extend reporting requirement deadlines at the request of an applicant, although none of the applicants in default of reporting requirements for the 2014 grant program have requested an extension.

There being no seconder, the MOTION WAS LOST.

At the request of the Committee, Ms. Temple clarified that should Council approve the staff recommendations, there would be a balance of \$125,613 remaining for any referrals.

Staff responded to further questions of clarification regarding specific applications.

8. ADDED ITEMS - None

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 1, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant