

**REGIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 21, 2008

PRESENT: Ms. Mhari Lamarque, Chair
Councillor Linda Mosher
Ms. Shannen Lumsden
Mr. Kevin Hazelhurst
Mr. Ben Murray
Ms. Tina Babineau
Ms. Judy Makmillen
Mr. Ryan Dodge
Ms. Rachel Eisner

REGRETS: Mr. Callum Dunphy, Vice-Chair
Councillor Gloria McClusky
Ms. Jacqueline Wigle
Mr. Lucian Mustain
Mr. Andrew Pumphery

STAFF: Mr. Lee Moore, Community Developer
Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Relations,
Community Development
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

Final Meeting of Committee - Minutes administratively approved

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. at the Halifax Regional School Board Office, 90 Alderney Drive.

2. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Eisener stated that her school's production of Fiddler on the Roof had been a success. She also informed the Committee that the Youth Action Team for district 12 were planning a hot chocolate house on May 2, 2008 and a youth dance on May 9, 2008.

Mr. Murray stated that he was pleased with the update on the proposed high speed ferry. He also advised that several residents in his area of Bedford believed that the by-election was a waste of time.

Councillor Mosher provided an explanation as to why the by-election was necessary.

Mr. Dodge advised that he had taken his business card to Sackville High School two (2) weeks ago.

Ms. Lumsden noted that her school was currently celebrating Earth Week and that they were also doing a production of South Pacific.

Ms. Makmillen advised that her school had held a fundraiser for cancer at which ten thousand (10,000) dollars was raised. She also noted that her school was currently holding Model Parliament and that the student government was electing members for next year.

Mr. Hazelhurst advised that a small youth action team in his area was gathering information regarding improvements to walking trails in Middle Musquodoboit. He noted that his school was holding a fashion show on May 8, 2008 and that on May 31, 2008 they would be observing World No Tobacco Day. Mr. Hazelhurst also stated that his community was organizing an Amazing Race competition on April 30, 2008 which he would be participating in.

Ms. Lamarque stated that Citadel High's production of West Side Story had been a success and that it had also helped raise money for the school's theatre. She also noted that her school was currently celebrating Earth Week.

Councillor Mosher advised that the beach volley ball court located in front of Cunard beach had been completed. She noted that it was similar to a regional facility, however, priority would be given to students on week days. She stated that she would like to hold an event and get HRM recreation staff as well as youth involved and encouraged the Committee members to help.

Councillor Mosher also asked for the Committee's input regarding how the volley ball court should be booked and run. Members made the following suggestions:

- Allow for lessons and events to be booked;
- Have the court run as a pick up game and/or on a first come first serve basis when it has not been booked for lessons or events;
- During the summer months, leave the original net at Cunard Junior High school and replace it with a less expensive one to avoid potential robbery or vandalism.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Ms. Makmillen, that a staff member be provided at least one day a week for the Cunard Beach volley ball court during the summer season. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 17, 2008

Corrections:

- 5.2 Ms. Makmillen clarified her comment that HRM could be *more* bike friendly rather than *quite* bike friendly.

MOVED BY Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Dodge, that the minutes of March 17, 2008, as corrected, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

March 17, 2008 7.3.1 Opportunity Wall for Cole Harbour Area

Councillor Mosher advised that this item would be forwarded on to the Graffiti Task Force for their meeting on April 30, 2008. She noted that a pilot project for a free wall had already been completed in Spryfield and that it had been a disaster. She stated that the idea of community art was a good one, however, tagging happens around these free wall sites She suggested creating a community art mural as an alternative. This would allow youth the opportunity to be paid for their art work.

Ms. Babineau entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr Moore noted that Community Development would provide funding for a mural art project such as this.

Councillor Mosher stated that she would bring a motion forward to the Graffiti Task Force on behalf of the Regional Youth Advisory Committee and a data base will be created by culture staff. In closing, Councillor Mosher noted that while she fully supported community art; graffiti is vandalism and a multi million dollar problem in the area.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Mr. Dodge, that a data base of youth artists be created for a potential community mural art project. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Sub - Committee Updates

MOVED BY Ms. Babineau, seconded by Mr. Dodge that a Sub - Committee meeting be held on May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Citadel High. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1.1 Youth Events & Website

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.1.2 Recreation Programs and Services / Facility Development

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.1.3 Youth Grants

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.1.4 Transportation

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.1.5 Art & Culture

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.1.6 School Outreach

This item will be addressed at the Sub - Committee meeting.

5.2 Regional Youth Advisory Committee Term

The Committee discussed when their new term would end during the year. It was also noted that current members may be reappointed for the 2008/2009 term.

MOVED BY Mr. Murray, seconded by Ms. Babineau, that the new appointment term for the Regional Youth Advisory Committee be from October to July. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 National Youth Week - Mr. Lee Moore

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Ms. Babineau, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee endorse National Youth Week and request that the proclamation used in May 2007 be sent out again by the Mayor. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 CORRESPONDENCE

7.2 PETITIONS - NONE

7.3 DELEGATIONS

7.3.1 Community Facilities Master Plan - Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Community Development

Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Community Development, and Ms. Kim Homnichuk provided the presentation on the Community Facilities Master Plan. Highlights of their presentation were as follows:

- The Community Facilities Master Plan is a fifteen (15) to twenty (20) year look at municipal facilities that need replacing or should be newly built;
- There is a desire for larger sports facilities;
- Representatives from Community Health, the School Board, the Province, Sport Nova Scotia and Council are all on the steering committee.

Ms. Homnichuk then asked for feedback from the Committee. The following points were noted:

- Youth make use of facilities such as recreation centres, pools and libraries;
- School fields are not being used to their full potential as many are not adequately maintained;
- There was a desire for a facility that offers archery and pottery wheels;
- There was a desire for open access to recreation centres for youth;
- When activities and one time programs are held at recreation centres there should be no charge or a limited charge that does not exceed five (5) dollars;
- There should be proper safety and staff for facilities and events in order to alleviate issues such as fighting;
- Facilities should be more accessible via public transportation; particularly for rural youth and individuals with disabilities;
- Facilities themselves should be more accessible for individuals with disabilities;
- A bacteria free area should be available for boating, for example, Long Lake as opposed to the North West Arm;
- Rinks should be more sanitary;
- There should be more accessible public skating times as many take place during school hours; this is a common problem with many programs throughout HRM;
- There should be more art resources, such as photography for a less expensive fee than local art institutions;
- Youth would like to see more promotion of programs;
- It was acknowledged that HRM had excellent, well trained staff;
- The lack of washrooms and water fountains at outdoor facilities was raised as a health and safety issue;
- There should be co location of playgrounds and recreations centres; amenities such as cross walks and traffic lights should be considered when siting new facilities;
- If programs require supervision; a public volunteer program could be considered. There is an extensive retired population as well as youth and adults interested in volunteering. A volunteer drive and screening process could take place;
- Working to bank hours to access facilities was also suggested;
- Bookings should be accessible to all as it was noted that they are currently not very youth friendly. It is hard to book school gymnasiums as there are many sports teams to compete for time with.

Ms. Killen and Ms. Homnichuk thanked the members for their thoughts and comments and encouraged them to get in contact with more

8. REPORTS - NONE

9. **ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008.

The Sub-Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following item was added as information:

1. Hype Day Information Report