



**AUDIT & FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING
June 5, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Steve Adams

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Greg Keefe, Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director of Planning and Infrastructure
Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Community & Recreation Services
Mr. Liam MacSween, 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 Audit and Finance
Standing Committee are available online:*

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCfinance/140605afscspec-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Marketing Levy Special Events Reserve (MLSER) Grant Report 2014

The following documentation was before the committee:

- *A staff report dated May 28, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase to the 2014/15 gross operating budget in the amount of \$313,057 with funding as withdrawal from Marketing Levy Special Events Reserve (MLSER), Q315 as detailed in the Financial Implications section of the staff report.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern with respect to the amount of funding that is given to some groups for special events.

Councillor Nicoll inquired as to the status of the current Special Events strategy.

Ms. Denise Schofield, Manger of Community and Recreation Services, stated that there is a Special Events strategy in place and staff is currently working on a new event granting framework. She commented that a draft is being prepared for the Special Events Advisory Committee. She further noted that the Special Events Advisory Committee has changed significantly in terms of membership over the past year and that the new framework will need to be reviewed in more detail by the Committee. She noted that staff is anticipating that the new framework will be ready for implementation in 2015.

Councillor Walker expressed concern with respect to the scoring that is placed for certain special events. He noted that current the framework put some events at a disadvantage. He further commented that if an event occurs year after year it should be declared as hallmark event.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant