

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 20, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Mr. Andrew Higdon
Ms. Gina Byrne
Mr. Geoff Baker
Ms. Monica Jordan
Mr. David Woo
Ms. Pamela Henley

REGRETS: Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS: NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Committee welcomed the new members.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 02, 2009**

Minutes to be deferred until next meeting.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Additions:

- 8.1 Postings on the HRM Grants Committee's web site
- 8.2 Councillor Andrew Younger's motion
- 8.3 Councillor Dalrymple message to the Committee

MOVED By Councilor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Andrew Higdon, that the Order of Business be approved as amended .

5. **DEFERRED BUSINESS**

5.1 **Proposed Guidelines for leasing HRM property to non-profit organizations: Standard Lease Agreements**

The proposed Guidelines were discussed at the February 16, 2009 meeting of the HRM Grant Committee Meeting. At that time the draft guidelines were distributed to the Committee members. After review of the guidelines, it was decided that staff would make the necessary revisions and bring the report back to the Committee for review.

Some of the issues noted were:

- Rent and lease are being used interchangeably and suggested the introduction contain a definition,
- There are too many examples listed on page 12, noting there should only be a few well thought out examples,
- Is there an overall capacity that has to be maintained and is there a listing of the amounts,
- Business Occupancy Tax is being phased out and there should be some

reference to that,

- Need to address equatability.
- Set some standards to lease,
- Wording should not be as restrictive,
- There should be wording that there is proof of insurance,
- HRM should be flagged if insurance is cancelled or revoked on a HRM property,
- Training certificates should this be part of HRM 's responsibility,
- Alcohol use should be really studied.

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

7. REPORTS:

7.1 Community Grants Program 2009-2010: Eligibility Adjudication

- A staff report dated March 13, 2009 was before the Committee.

MOVED By Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee accept an application from the Social, Cultural, Recreational Inclusion Society for the 2009-2010 HRM Community Grants Program. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

In response to a question regarding Union Cemetery Company, staff advised that these costs are operating costs and should not be covered.

It was noted that the Farrell Hall Benevolent Society repairs in the amount of \$846.00 has not come back.

7.2 Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax: Less Than Market Value Lease Renewals

- A staff report dated March 12, 2009 was before the Committee.

MOVED By Ms. Andrew Higdon, seconded by Ms. Gina Byrne, that the HRM Grants Committee approve renewal of the following six (6) leases for a term of one (1) year pending the re-development of the Bloomfield Centre site: Canadian Mental Health Association, Ecology Action Centre, Northern Lights Senior Citizens Club, Safe Harbour Metropolitan Church, Independent Living Resource Centre, and the Knights of Columbus. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Property Matter: St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia. Request for Less Than Market Value Sale : 2190 Barrington Street, Halifax

- A memorandum from Mayor Peter Kelly dated March 17, 2009

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Pamela Henley, that this be referred to staff for a report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Postings on the HRM Grants Committee's web site

Ms. Temple advised the Committee that the Clerk's office was seeking direction as to what information should be provided on the HRM Web site with regards to agendas, minutes, and reports. She advised that right now the only piece of information going on the web site is the current agenda.

Discussion ensued with the consensus of the Committee that all information including agendas, minutes and reports should be added to the web site.

8.2 Councillor Younger - Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was given by Councillor Younger at Regional Council on April 14, 2009.

"Take notice that at the next regular Regional Council meeting, to be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, I intend to introduce a motion to require that the Grants Committee return to Regional Council within 3 months with a recommendation to Council outlining specific requirements, criteria, and scoring for 1. Tax exemption levels; 2. Land sales for less than market value; and 3. Community grants"

Following discussion, the Committee agreed the three month timeline as per the Notice of Motion could not be met and suggested five months would be an appropriate time frame. Councillor Walker agreed to bring this forward at the April 28, 2009 when the motion is brought forward.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2009, 2:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Barbara Coleman
Legislative Assistant