

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HRM GRANTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 13, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. David Woo
Mr. Andrew Higdon
Mr. David Khokhar

REGRETS: Mr. Geoff Baker
Ms. Gina Byrne
Ms. Monica Jordan

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special
Projects
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 14, 2010	3
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS	3
4. DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	4
4.1 HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund: 2009-2010 – Shubenacadie Canal Commission (Deferred from June 14, 2010)	4
5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE.....	4
6. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.....	4
7. REPORTS	4
7.1 Property Matter: Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street – Less than Market Value Lease Renewals.....	4
7.2 HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Recommended Awards <i>(Portion referred back from June 22, 2010 Regional)</i>	5
7.3 HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011 – Appeals.....	5
7.4 HRM Community Grants Program: Proposed Policy Regarding Funding Requests for Workshops	7
8. ADDED ITEMS	7
8.1 Presentation by Larry Munroe, Auditor General	3 & 7
9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 4, 2010.....	8
10. ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in the Duke Boardroom 1, 3rd Floor Duke Tower.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 14, 2010

MOVED by Mr. Andrew Higdon, seconded by Councillor Barry Dalrymple, that the minutes of June 14, 2010 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

8.1 Presentation by Larry Munroe, Auditor General

The Committee agreed to discussion Item 8.1 as the first order of business.

MOVED by Mr. David Woo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Johns, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1 Presentation by Larry Munroe, Auditor General

Mr. Larry Munroe, Auditor General, advised that the Office of the Auditor General is doing a review of HRM's support agencies, boards and committees, commissions and non-profit organizations to gain an understanding of:

- the various processes and policies in place for organizations and individuals to access support through HRM grants and contributions
- the different types of value provided to organizations; the different forms of assistance and goals set from that assistance
- Council approved disbursements administered through the HRM Grants Committee
- alignment with Council goals and stated objectives
- identifying whether the money was used for its intended purpose; meeting objectives; follow up processes and what forms of evaluation criteria are used

Mr. Munroe indicated that following this review, the Office of the Auditor General will provide recommendations for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee entered into discussion with Mr. Munroe responding to questions.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Smith, Mr. Munroe advised that at this point in time he could not confirm when recommendations would be provided. He noted the Committee will be updated as the review progresses.

Councillor Dalrymple suggested the option of a computerized system which would itemize each organization/group and how the Committee and other HRM groups have provided assistance to them. Mr. Munroe commented that this information has to be coded to alleviate some of the inconsistencies.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, noted that one of the challenges staff and the Committee has is identifying whether an organization/group has already received funding support from another source. She provided examples where organizations/groups have received funding support towards marketing design, free advertising, payroll processing, website development, real estate, rent subsidies, bookkeeping and public transit in addition to receiving a grant.

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS

4.1 HRM Community Facility Partnership Fund: 2009-2010 – Shubenacadie Canal Commission (Deferred from June 14, 2010)

A draft minute extract of the HRM Grants Committee June 14, 2010 meeting was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, noted that an information report is being sent to Regional Council to advise that the Shubenacadie Canal Commission has withdrawn their application. A copy of the information report will be provided to the Committee for reference.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Property Matter: Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street – Less than Market Value Lease Renewals

A staff report dated June 16, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Tara Legge, Community Facility Service Delivery Coordinator, provided an overview of the June 16, 2010 staff report. The following points of clarification and amendments were noted:

- the lease amounts are the same as the 2009-2010 amounts, with the exception of the Ecology Action Centre (Bike Again Program)
- Table 3 – Northern Lights Senior Citizens Club: the monthly payment of \$466.67 plus HST for this proposal is divided between the Northern Lights Senior Club and HRM Community Recreation; the Seniors Club pays \$87.50 plus HST per month and Community Recreation provides a subsidy of \$379.17 plus HST per month

- Table 4 – Safe Harbour Metropolitan Church (Manna for Health Food Bank) : the annual rent for this proposal should be *\$500 plus HST*, which changes the monthly payment to *\$41.67 plus HST per month*; the area and location should be *100 square feet* not 50 square feet
- the budget implications should be *\$57,084 in revenue per annum* not \$56,834

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, suggested that the second recommendation include *notwithstanding appeals*, as it will allow for any dispute (arrear, eviction, vacation, etc.).

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Johns, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the following six (6) lease for a term of one (1) year and subsequent yearly renewals, if necessary, for these six (6) tenants, 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 Knights of Columbus, as per the key terms and conditions set out in Tables 1 – 6 of the June 16, 2010 staff report.**
- 2. Direct staff to renew these six (6) less than market value leases annually, notwithstanding appeals, without formally providing a recommendation report to the Grants Committee and Regional Council, until a decision regarding re-development of the Bloomfield Center site is made.**

The Committee entered into discussion with staff responding to questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011: Recommended Awards
(Portion referred back from June 22, 2010 Regional)

The following was before the Committee:

- A minute extract of the HRM Grants Committee June 22, 2010 meeting.
- A copy of the HRM Grants Committee report to Halifax Regional Council dated June 14, 2010.

The Committee agreed to discuss this matter under Item 7.3 - HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011 – Appeals.

7.3 HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011 – Appeals

A staff report dated July 26, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, provided an update to the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Deputy Mayor Johns, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* appeals as detailed in the Discussion session of the July 26, 2010 staff report for a total of five (5) grants for a combined total value of \$18,900 from operating account M311-8004 - Grants & Tax Concessions.

The Committee entered into discussion with staff responding to questions.

Councillor Dalrymple requested that the Friends of Ivy Meadows Capital Grant be increased to \$12,000 from \$5,000.

Ms. Temple noted that the adjustment to the Friends of Ivy Meadows Capital Grant by \$7,000 would increase the recommended awards total to \$25,900 from \$18,900. The balance remaining in Account M311-8004 – Grants & Tax Concessions would be \$13,852 instead of \$19,852.

Councillor Dalrymple noted the following points:

- the location of the Ivy Meadows Continuing Care Facility is largely isolated without public transportation and limited tax service
- the lack of transportation has decrease leisure opportunities for residents
- the cost to repair the facility's existing bus is in excess of \$25,000
- \$12,000 would allow the Friends of Ivy Meadows to purchase a new bus for the facility
- the proportional share of the costs has been raised by the volunteer society

Moved by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the Friends of Ivy Meadows Capital Grant be increased to \$12,000 from \$5,000.

The discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion before the Committee now reads as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Deputy Mayor Johns, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* appeals as detailed in the Discussion session of the July 26, 2010 staff report for a total of five (5) grants for a combined total value of \$25,900 from operating account M311-8004 - Grants & Tax Concessions.

Further discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

Deputy Mayor Johns exited the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.4 HRM Community Grants Program: Proposed Policy Regarding Funding Requests for Workshops

A staff report dated July 26, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, provided an overview of the July 26, 2010 staff report. She noted that it would be difficult to quantify the distinction and scope of the benefit of workshops. An alternative could be to refer workshop requests to the HRM Volunteer Services as a program aspect and not a grant. She further noted that there are a number of programs through other levels of government that provide funding for workshops.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee exclude workshops from funding eligibility.

The Committee entered into discussion with the following points being noted:

- the benefits of workshops vary from person to person
- applications for funding workshops requires a large amount of pre-planning; a majority of workshops are generated within a short time frame
- HRM's Volunteer Conference covers a wide range of topics
- Library Services has a number of workshops that potentially duplicate workshop services; the program is run by volunteers from the private sector and is offered seasonally three to four times per year

Councillor Watts requested that the motion be amended to exclude workshops for the time being. She suggested that staff could refer people to other resources such as HRM Volunteer Services and Library Services to seek workshop assistance. The Committee agreed to the amendment.

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee exclude workshops from funding eligibility at this time.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Presentation by Larry Munroe, Auditor General

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 4, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS
September 13, 2010

1. Correspondence to Ross Cantwell, Housing Trust of Nova Scotia, re: Request for Waiver of Application Fees: 2183 and 2215 Gottingen Street, Halifax.