

GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Mr. Geoff Baker  
Mr. Andrew Higdon  
Ms. Kate Watson  
Mr. David Woo

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Dr. Lori Wozney  
Mr. Darren Watts

STAFF: Mr. Tom Crouse, Manager, Acquisition and Disposal, Real Estate,  
Planning and Infrastructure  
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Community & Recreation  
Services  
Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Coordinator, Client Services, Community &  
Recreation Services  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects,  
Finance  
Mr. Scott Sheffield, Community Developer, Business Improvement  
Districts, Community & Recreation Services  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Dalrymple, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 7, 2012**

Correction:

Item 7.1, Page 3 (Adsum House) was moved by Councillor Watts not Mr. Watts.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Mr. Higdon that the minutes of May 7, 2012, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Information Item 4 – Information Report dated April 7, 2012 HRM Community Grants Program 2012 – 2013: Ineligible Applications – Councillor Watts
- 8.2 Information Item 2 – E-mail dated April 20, 2012 from Margo Grant and Fraser Ross - Councillor Walker

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 Canadian Naval Memorial Trust**

A letter dated April 30, 2012 was before the Committee.  
A response to the correspondence from staff may be viewed as Information Item 3.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Leader, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, and Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, provided an overview of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust's request for funding toward the HMCS Sackville Naval Memorial Design Competition project.

Discussion ensued on the proposal before the Committee.

**MOVED by Mr. Higdon, seconded by Mr. Baker that the Grants Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council direct staff to release the \$50,000 capital grant award from account M311-8004 Community Grants Program to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust towards professional fees for an international design competition in relation to the proposed Naval Memorial Hall I in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the Discussion section of the March 6, 2012 Grant Committee report and the January 9, 2012 staff report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6.2 Delegations - NONE**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Supplementary Report – Property Matter: Proposed Less than Market Value Sale of 4693 Highway #7, Porter’s Lake (Portion of PID#40238552) to the Porter’s Lake Community Services Association**

The April 16, 2012 staff Supplementary Report was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Consider scheduling a public hearing, as required under Section 63(2) of the HRM Charter, for the proposed less than market value sale of 4693 Highway #7, Porter's Lake (Portion of PID#40238552) to the Porter's Lake Community Service Association.**
- 2. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, whereby the property located at 4693 Highway #7, Porter's Lake, pending subdivision approval, be conveyed to the Porter's Lake Community Service Association for the sum of \$1, plus associated costs as per the terms and conditions set out in Table 1 of the April 16, 2012 Supplementary Report.**

Discussion ensued on the motion with staff responding to questions from members of the Committee.

In response to concerns raised by members of the Committee, Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Coordinator, Client Services, Community & Recreation Services, advised that the Porter’s Lake Community Service Association could apply for grants/tax reduction/tax exemption through the formal application process. In regard to the close geographic placement of the two facilities, the new HRM /HRSB building that was intended to replace the existing facility in question, Ms. Killen advised that the facilities were located in different areas of the community and were 3.5 kilometres apart. The total inventory of facilities in rural areas is far less than in the urban core.

Councillor Watts expressed concern with two facilities in close geographic placement, however; noted that the services would be fulfilling a need outside the HRM service mandate.

Councillor Walker commented that the community group has an established presence at this site and have been residents of the building since the 1970's.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Higdon, Mr. Tom Crouse, Manager, Acquisition and Disposal, Real Estate, HRM Planning and Infrastructure, advised that there will be a re-appraisal of the property as the \$182,000 figure was based on the full property. The community group has advised that they are not interested in obtaining the full property.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7.2 BID Contributions Fund**

The May 11, 2012 staff report was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple introduced Mr. Scott Sheffield, Community Developer, Business Improvement Districts, HRM Corporate Communications, and Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Senior Analyst, Economic Policy and Development, HRM Government Relations and External Affairs, and explained that there were a few minor procedural refinements to the BID Contributions Fund policy.

Mr. Sheffield explained the proposed amendments/refinements to the policy as follows:

- Revise Item 4.1 Initial Year, Page 7: by removing, "by way of *Administrative Order*", and replacing with "*by Regional Council*".
- Add to Item 9 Timeframe for Eligible Expenses, Page 8: that the duration of eligible project expenses shall be from *after April 1st of the current fiscal year to March 31st of the current fiscal year*;
- Add to Item 14 Proportional Share Formula, Page 9: the exclusion by *policy of any federal or provincial grant in lieu of taxes* payable to a Business Improvement District from the calculation of HRM discretionary funding;
- Add Item 21.7 Advocacy, Page 13,: *Subject to liaising with HRM visioning staff, facilitate visioning sessions with stakeholders regarding the redevelopment of the district or a portion thereof*
- Add Item 30 Continuous Renewal, Page 17: Continuous Renewal clause.

Discussion ensued on the proposed amendments and the policy as presented.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Grants Committee recommend the addition of "*bicycle infrastructure*" to the last bullet regarding the commitment to green solutions, Item 21.2 Enhanced Maintenance & Beautification, Page 11, of the policy. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the BID Contributions Fund policy, as amended below:**

- **Revise Item 4.1 Initial Year, Page 7: by removing, " *by way of Administrative Order*", and replacing with " *by Regional Council*"**
- **Add to Item 9 Timeframe for Eligible Expenses, Page 8: that the duration of eligible project expenses shall be from after April 1st of the current fiscal year to March 31st of the current fiscal year;**
- **Add to Item 14 Proportional Share Formula, Page 9: the exclusion by policy of any federal or provincial grant in lieu of taxes payable to a Business Improvement District from the calculation of HRM discretionary funding;**
- **Add to Item 21.2 Enhanced Maintenance & Beautification, Page 11: " *bicycle infrastructure*" to the last bullet regarding the commitment to green solutions.**
- **Add Item 21.7 Advocacy, Page 13: *Subject to liaising with HRM visioning staff, facilitate visioning sessions with stakeholders regarding the redevelopment of the district or a portion thereof***
- **Add Item 30 Continuous Renewal, Page 17: a Continuous Renewal clause.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.3 Property Matter: Less than Market value Sale of 3214 Highway #2, Fall River (PID#526939) to the Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River Firemen's Association**

The May 31, 2012 staff report was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple provided an overview of the staff report on the proposed less than market value sale of 3214 Highway 2, Fall River.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:**

1. **Consider scheduling a public hearing, as required under Section 63 (2) of the HRM Charter, for the proposed less than market value sale of 3214 Highway #2, Fall River (PID#526939) to the Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River Firemen's Association.**
2. **Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, whereby the property located at 3214 Highway #2, Fall River, be conveyed to the Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River Firemen's Association, conditional upon confirmation of an approved easement agreement, for the sum of \$1 plus all associated costs as per the terms and conditions set out in Table 1 of the May 31, 2012 report.**

In response to questions/concerns raised by members of the Committee, Ms. Temple explained the uniqueness of this particular proposed less than market value sale and the legislation as it relates to fire stations. She noted that the property disposal policy, to be addressed by Regional Council, does not preclude the Committee from considering property matters.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Information Item 4 – Information Report dated April 7, 2012 HRM Community Grants Program 2012 – 2013: Ineligible Applications**

The April 7, 2012 Information Report on HRM Community Grants Program 2012-2013: Ineligible Applications was before the Committee.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Watts in regard to the Nocturne: Art at Night application, Ms. Temple explained that this is a new initiative and an auxiliary program to the October Nocturne event. The decline was based on the application being late. Staff forwarded a letter to the group advising them of the process for appeal.

Councillor Walker commented that other applicants had been declined based on late applications and expressed concern, in regard to the community grant program's budget, with opening up consideration of those applicants.

In response to questions raised in regard to trails funding, Ms. Temple advised that staff have requested comment/clarification from HRM Legal Services on the issue of funding trails.

**8.2 Information Item 2: E-mail dated April 20, 2012 from Margo Grant and Fraser Ross re: Symphony Nova Scotia**

Councillor Walker clarified that contrary to the comments before the Committee, Symphony Nova Scotia (SNS) had been invited to meet with the Committee and members of staff at which time discussion ensued on the HRM community grant award program including under which category SNS would qualify for funding consideration.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 9, 2012**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant

## INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Upcoming Agenda Items:
  - a) Recurring Annual Awards – Draft Process – **Spring 2012**
  - b) Non-Profit Tax in Comparable Municipalities – **Spring / Fall 2012**
  - c) Proposed Tax Exemption Program Review – **Spring / Fall 2012**
  - d) Delinquent Reports – Status Update – **July 2012**
  - e) Grants Program: Status Update 2012 Delinquent Reports – **July 2012**
2. E-mail dated April 20, 2012 from Margo Grant and Fraser Ross re: Symphony Nova Scotia
3. Staff response to Canadian Naval Memorial Trust dated May 8, 2012
4. Information Report – Community Grants Program 2012-2013: Applications Not Recommended for Funding (*April 10, 2012*)
5. Information Report – HRM Community Grants Program 2012-2013: Ineligible Applications (*April 7, 2012*)