

GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 4, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Geoff Baker
Mr. Darren Watts
Ms. Lori Wozney
Ms. Kate Watson
Mr. David Woo

REGRETS: Mr. Andrew Higdon
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Community &
Recreation Services
Ms. Christine Buckely, Program Technician
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd floor City Hall, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7th , 2013

Councillor Walker noted that Councillor Watts was in attendance at the January 7, 2013 Grants meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the January 7, 2013 minutes be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Baker that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Staff

7.1.1 By-Law T-229 Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations 2012-2013

A staff report dated January 22, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Baker that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:

- 1. The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012-2013 fiscal year for 148 organizations (297 properties) as listed in Table 3a (Attachment 3), for a total combined cost of \$2,368, 878;**
- 2. The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012-2013 fiscal year for the 35 organizations (35 leased properties) as listed in Table 3b (Attachment 3) for a total \$369,585;**

3. **The addition of 5 organizations (5 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4a (Attachment 4) for a total combined cost of \$20, 301;**
4. **A change in exemption level for 1 organization (3 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4b (Attachment 4) for an increase in the cost of \$2,470;**
5. **The removal of 5 organizations (6 properties) in 2012-2013 as detailed in Table 5a(Attachment 5) for a combined saving of \$2,065**
6. **The decline of 6 new applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6a (attachment 6);**
7. **The decline of an increase in current level of 12 applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6b (Attachment 6);**
8. **The deferral of 25 organizations (308 properties) previously deferred and 6 new applicants (7 properties) as detailed in Tables 7a&b (attachment 7).**

Without voting on the motion on the floor the following motion was put:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Watts that the recommendation regarding Neptune Theatre be removed for this year maintaining its current funding status, until a cultural policy and funding strategy can be developed for the professional arts community.

Councillor Watts noted that there is a lot of discussion regarding supporting the professional arts community in the cultural plan for HRM. She stated that it is being planned through a number of HRM departments. She advised that it would protect the arts community until that plan is put in place.

Councillor Dalrymple noted difficulty denying some groups for funding and maintaining funding or increasing for others.

In response to question from the Committee, Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning, noted that there is a review of the non-profit tax program that would be going to the Grants Committee in the following year.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee began to discuss the main motion;

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Baker that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:

9. **The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012-2013 fiscal year for 148 organizations (297 properties) as listed in Table 3a (Attachment 3), for a total combined cost of \$2,368, 878;**
10. **The renewal of tax exemption status for the 2012-2013 fiscal year for the 35 organizations (35 leased properties) as listed in Table 3b (Attachment 3) for a total \$369,585;**
11. **The addition of 5 organizations (5 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4a (Attachment 4) for a total combined cost of \$20, 301;**
12. **A change in exemption level for 1 organization (3 properties) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year as detailed in Table 4b (Attachment 4) for an increase in the cost of \$2,470;**
13. **The removal of 5 organizations (6 properties) in 2012-2013 as detailed in Table 5a(Attachment 5) for a combined saving of \$2,065**
14. **The decline of 6 new applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6a (attachment 6);**
15. **The decline of an increase in current level of 12 applicants (12 properties) as detailed in Table 6b (Attachment 6);**
16. **The deferral of 25 organizations (308 properties) previously deferred and 6 new applicants (7 properties) as detailed in Tables 7a&b (attachment 7).**

Mr. Greechan answered questions of clarification from the Committee. He noted that there is an appeal process for groups dissatisfied with the recommendations. He advised that the groups could appeal the decision during the public hearing.

The Committee noted difficulty finding a way to fund some of the affordable housing programs without an affordable housing program in place. Committee members also noted that there are a number of programs that should be considered but there is presently not enough money in the budget to cover new programs.

After further discussion, **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

7.1.2 Community Grants Program Adjudication of Eligibility: Legacy Centre for Performing Arts Society

A staff report dated January 21, 2013 was before the Committee.

Mr. Greechan gave a presentation of the report. He advised that the Legacy Centre Performing Arts Society is anticipating making a request for funding through the Community Grants Program. He noted that it was comprised from a number of arts and

dance groups who have received funding from the Grants Committee. He advised that if one of the groups applied for funding for the same program they would be ineligible.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Councillor Dalrymple- Increase Funding to T-229 Budget

Moved by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Woo to increase funding to the T-229 budget by \$250,000 to cover the amount of deferrals.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Councillor Watts – Affordable Housing Policy

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Grants Committee advise Community Planning and Economic Development Committee the difficulties faced by the Grants Committee in making decisions around supporting requests for tax exemptions to affordable housing projects without having a larger affordable housing strategy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 4, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant