



**Grants Committee
MINUTES
May 5, 2014**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Darren Watts
Ms. Kate Watson
Mr. Donald Dodge
Mr. Jason Cooke
- REGRETS:** Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
- ABSENT:** Mr. Francis Glover
- STAFF:** Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Contributions
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, 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 Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/HRMGrantsCommittee.html>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 14, 2014

Ms. Watson indicated that she seconded the first motion on page 6 of the minutes.

MOVED by Darren Watts, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that the Grants Committee minutes of April 14, 2014 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

It was requested that the two information reports be added to the agenda for any questions.

Additions:

- Info Item No. 1. Community Grants Program 2014: Ineligible Applications
- Info Item No. 2. Community Grants Program 2014: Applications Not Recommended for Funding

MOVED by Darren Watts, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 HRM Rural Transit Funding Program

A memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated May 5, 2014 was before the Committee.

The following motion was passed at the April 14th Grants Committee meeting:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that the motion be amended to read: That the Grants Committee requests a staff report exploring any other possible funding mechanisms or sources to fund the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program, and that the report also explore the following suggestions:

- 1. That \$250,000 of the \$2 million allocated in the provincial budget for HRM transit be earmarked to fund rural transportation solutions.**
- 2. That the HRM Rural Transit Funding Program funds match provincial NS Trip and CTAP program funding.**
- 3. That a rural transportation contribution fund be set up similar to Facility Lease Agreements, where community organizations can have their operational costs directly subsidized.**
- 4. That a portion of the rural transportation tax rate be allocated for rural transportation solutions.**

The Legislative Assistant advised that the Municipal Clerk has reviewed the motion and determined that the motion is out of order, as the recommendations are not within the mandate of the Grants Committee. The Clerk suggested that these items should be considered by Regional Council, and the Councillor may wish to reintroduce them at the Council level when the approved staff recommendation goes forward to Council.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Community Grants Program 2014-15: Recommended Awards

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 23, 2014.

Ms. Temple reviewed the List of Recommended Grants by Sector 2014-2015 (Attachment 2 of the April 23, 2014 staff report) item by item, responding to questions from members.

At the request of a member, Ms. Temple provided an overview of the application review methodology (Attachment 1 of the April 23, 2014 staff report).

Ms. Temple and Mr. Greechan responded to application specific questions from members.

Darren Watts declared a conflict of interest with regard to the Cunard Street Children's Centre.

Kate Watson declared a conflict of interest with regard to the Halifax Theatre for Young People, included in the report for Information Item No. 2 - Community Grants Program 2014-15 Applications Not Recommended for Funding.

Mr. Watts inquired whether any of the applicants listed under the Arts & Crafts sector would be considered under the HRM Professional Arts Grants Program? Ms. Temple indicated that since the criteria for professional arts funding is yet to be determined, staff reviewed arts and crafts applications considering which organizations were clearly not professional arts organizations, and gave consideration to time sensitive matters, to make their recommendations.

Ms. Temple further explained that the HRM Professional Arts Grants Program may take some time as it requires an Administrative Order, although professional arts organizations will

continue to be eligible for grants through the Community Grants Program until the Professional Arts Program comes into effect.

Ms. Temple advised that in light of this delay to the Professional Arts Program, instead of Recommendation #2 on page 1 of the staff report, staff are recommending Alternative #2 set out on page 5 of the report, “that the Grants Committee direct staff to review applications from professional arts groups to the 2014 Community Grants program and submit a Supplementary Report” to the Grants Committee for recommendation to Regional Council.

Ms. Temple further noted that the Community Grants Program Guidebook is published in January each year, and therefore does not contain information on the Professional Arts Grants Program. Once the Administrative Order required for the professional program is approved by Council, the criteria for both programs will be clarified in next year’s guidebook.

Reviewing the alternatives, Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, clarified that neither alternative 2, nor alternative 3, will transfer any money into the professional program.

A discussion was held regarding applicants applying to the Community Grants Program vs. the Professional Arts Program.

At the request of Ms. Watson, Ms. Temple clarified that applicants would still have the ability to appeal under the Community Grants Program.

Ms. Temple advised that as a result of new information that has come forward from the applicant, staff are recommending that the application from the Halifax Theatre for Young People be referred back to staff for review. She clarified that the Halifax Theatre for Young People can be found in Information Item No. 2, Applications Not Recommended for Funding report. Ms. Temple further clarified that this would allow an opportunity for correction to the application, and for staff to review the corrected application.

MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that:

- 1. The HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve 53 awards for a combined value of \$382,625 as detailed in Attachment 2 of the April 23, 2014 report, from operating account M311-8004 Community Grants Program;**
- 2. That the Grants Committee direct staff to review applications from professional arts groups to the 2014 Community Grants program, as well as the application from the Halifax Theatre for Young People, and submit a Supplementary Report to the next Grants Committee meeting.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events & Cultural Initiatives, advised the Committee that recommendations for the HRM Professional Arts Grants Program will come through the Grants Committee for recommendation.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Community Grants Program 2014: Ineligible Applications

The following was before the Committee:

- An Information report dated April 16, 2014.

Ms. Temple advised that all ineligible applicants will be sent a letter advising of their eligibility for appeal and of the appeal deadline. She clarified that the applicant would have to outline the reasons for their appeal.

Ms. Temple and Mr. Greechan responded to application specific questions from members.

8.2. Community Grants Program 2014: Applications Not Recommended for Funding

The following was before the Committee:

- An Information report dated April 23, 2014.

Earlier in the meeting, Kate Watson declared a conflict of interest with regard to the Halifax Theatre for Young People, included in this information report, as she is a member of the Board.

Ms. Temple indicated that letters will be sent to the applicants that are not recommended for funding, referring them to speak with staff for reference with future applications, and will give them their declined criteria. She noted that some of these may appeal.

Ms. Temple further clarified that staff will not be bringing forward the appeals report until the Professional Arts Program report has gone to Council.

Ms. Temple and Mr. Greechan responded to application specific questions from members.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, June 9, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Community Grants Program 2014: Ineligible Applications** (*Information report dated April 16, 2014*)
 2. **Community Grants Program 2014: Applications Not Recommended for Funding** (*Information report dated April 23, 2014*)
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