

SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NOTES

February 18, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Brad Johns, Chair  
Mr. Stuart Joliffe  
Mr. Colin Richardson  
Ms. Dianne Kokesh

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple  
Mr. Jonathan Wilikie  
Ms. Lisa Monk  
Mr. Timothy Rissesco  
Mr. Jeff Ransome

STAFF: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Events and Cultural Initiatives  
Mr. Paul Forrest, Coordinator, Civic Events  
Ms. Marian Tyson, Solicitor  
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. with no quorum present in Duke Room 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Duke Tower.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE**

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

The agenda, as presented, was addressed.

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

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – Date**

**5.1 Equipment and Operating Reserve Funds**

Due to a lack of quorum, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence- None**

**6.2 Petitions- None**

**6.3 Presentation**

**6.3.1 Halifax Pride Festival**

A copy of the Halifax Pride 2013 presentation was before the Committee.

Ms. Cathy Walsh, Ms. Marian Steele and Mr. Chris Stileno provided a verbal update on the event. The request from HRM is for \$33,000. They then responded to questions from Members of the Committee and provided the following additional information/clarification:

- 4<sup>th</sup> largest Pride event in Canada
- 1,000 hotel nights sold
- Over 10,000 people come to Pride from outside HRM
- On site survey taken last year showed that average attendee spends \$380 during the festival which gives the festival a 41 million dollar impact on the economy.

Councillor Johns thanked the members of Halifax Pride for their presentation and advised that staff would contact them when the Committee made a decision.

### **6.3.2 Halifax Jazz Festival**

A copy of the Halifax Jazz Festival presentation was before the Committee.

Ms. Lulu Healey and Ms. Heather Gibson provided a verbal update on the event. The request from HRM is for \$45,000. They responded to questions from Members of the Committee and provided the following additional information/clarification:

- Engages approximately 585 volunteers annually.
- In its 27<sup>th</sup> year and attracts 50,000 visitors downtown for 90+ shows with record crowds in attendance last year.
- 26,000 people attended free concerts at the main stages.
- Advertising campaign is seen over 300 km radius which promotes HRM.
- The slight increase in request for funding is due to the growth of the festival over the past three years.

Councillor Johns thanked the members of Halifax Jazz for their presentation and advised that staff would contact them when the Committee made a decision.

### **6.3.3 Halifax International Busker Festival**

A copy of the Halifax International Busker Festival presentation was before the Committee.

Mr. Chris White, Mr. Keith Croucher, Mr. Rick Fair and Ms. Kim Henderson gave presentation to the Committee. The request from HRM is for \$75,000. The group responded to questions from the Committee and provided the following additional information/clarification.

- All the events are free to the public, and a very high quality show.
- Attracts 500,000 visitors a year to the event, attracting the young and the elderly.
- Traditionally been in one place, changes planned this year to spread the event to different areas besides the waterfront. Festival is moving to a six day event.
- 41 million spent annually by tourists visiting the festival.

Councillor Johns thanked the members of Halifax Jazz for their presentation and advised that staff would contact them when the Committee made a decision.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Staff**

#### **7.1.2 Hallmark Grant 2013 Renewals**

Due to a lack of quorum, the recommendation from the Committee was deferred to the next meeting.

Committee Members discussed each event and reviewed the staff recommendation with the following funding suggestions:

**Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo:** agreed with staff recommendation

**Bluenose International Marathon:** Discuss at next meeting.

**Halifax International Busker Festival:** Staff recommendation with conditions placed on it, 0 based budget; to be discussed at next meeting.

**Halifax Jazz Festival:** agreed with staff recommendation.

**Atlantic Film Festival:** agreed with staff recommendation.

**Halifax Pride Festival:** recommend \$30,000.

**SEDMHA:** agreed with staff recommendation.

**Halifax Pop Explosion:** recommend \$40,000 on condition free outdoor event is held.

**Scotia Festival of Music:** recommend \$17,000.

#### **7.1.2 Exception Clause –Mr. Paul Forrest – Verbal**

Mr. Forrest noted there were seven events that could achieve Hallmark event status but noted that because the program was under review, they fell under the exception clause. Mr. Forrest noted that the report would be before the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee suggested that the largest two groups come and present and put the other five events on hold until after the next meeting.

### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **8.1 Conflict of Interest**

Ms. Marian Tyson, Solicitor answered questions on conflict of interest from the Committee. She noted there were pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interests. She noted that the Committee can decide who is in conflict, but it is up to the individual member to decide. She advised that if there is doubt it would be better for the member to step aside.

The Committee commented that the notion of perceived and non-perceived conflict of interests were very vague. The Committee also asked if members of SEAC were in conflict if Regional Council made the final decisions on SEAC recommendations.

Ms. Tyson advised that there are grey areas in regard to conflict of interest. She noted that she would like to take a closer look to some of the questions raised by the Committee and see if there were any examples in case law. She advised that she is currently working on a report on the matter for Regional Council.

## **8.2 Industry Replacement for Vacant SEAC Position**

Due to a lack of quorum, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 18, 2013.**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Quentin Hill  
Legislative Assistant