



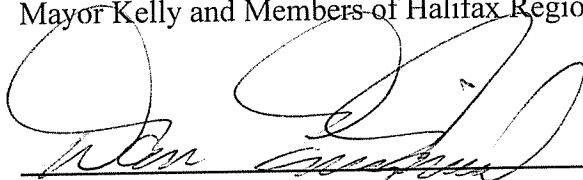
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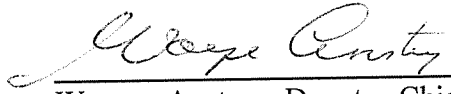
Halifax Regional Council
March 6, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

DATE: February 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Youth Governance Model

ORIGIN

This report originates from staff.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council:

- (a) adopt the Youth Governance Model as described in the body of this report; and
- (b) adopt the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee Terms of reference as provided in Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2006 HRM held its first “youth fest” conference. The primary purpose of the Youth Fest was to gather young people from across the region to begin to shape a Youth Council. Moreover, the conference would provide an opportunity to celebrate youth and to actively engage them - which is important for influencing positive behaviour and reducing risk. Specifically, “Youth Fest” focussed on the following four objectives:

1. to celebrate the gifts and talents of youth between the ages of 12 to 19;
2. to educate youth on the role of municipal government;
3. to form a Youth Council; and
4. to develop youth skills.

A total of 302 youth attended the event. Amongst these, young people with disabilities, those living in public and not-for-profit housing, and members of African Nova Scotian and immigrant communities were well represented. The total cost of the event was approximately \$38,000.

DISCUSSION

In terms of satisfying the overall objectives, it is staff’s opinion that the Youth Fest was a success. Following the festival, 102 evaluations forms were returned to staff. Overall, it appears that youth were made to feel appreciated and valued, and that the one-on-one conversations with local councillors were important for their overall learning. With respect to new skills, youth learned about being leaders in their communities and how to launch initiatives in their respective communities. In fact, following the conference youth began to apply their new skills to advance several positive community initiatives including:

- Youth Council Working Group
- Radio broadcast project with Halifax Public Libraries as lead partner
- Public art projects
- On-going art and culture projects
- Youth web site - www.hrmyouth.ca

a) The Youth Council Working Group

Since the Youth Fest, approximately 14 youth have been meeting as a group to discuss their concepts around an HRM Youth Governance Structure. Community Relations staff have facilitated several sessions with youth who have reached consensus on a proposed model. This Youth Governance Model is generally described below.

The proposed Youth Governance Model for HRM will provide a formal voice for youth on issues such as Indoor and Outdoor (ie. Skateparks, Trails) Facilities, Recreation Programming, Transportation, Community Events, Corporate Communications and Art and Culture. The Youth Governance model will also provide a mechanism for decision makers to consult and mentor youth. The Youth Governance Model is comprised of three levels (see Figure1). The Youth Action team at the local level, Youth Representation at the Community Council Level, and the youth at the

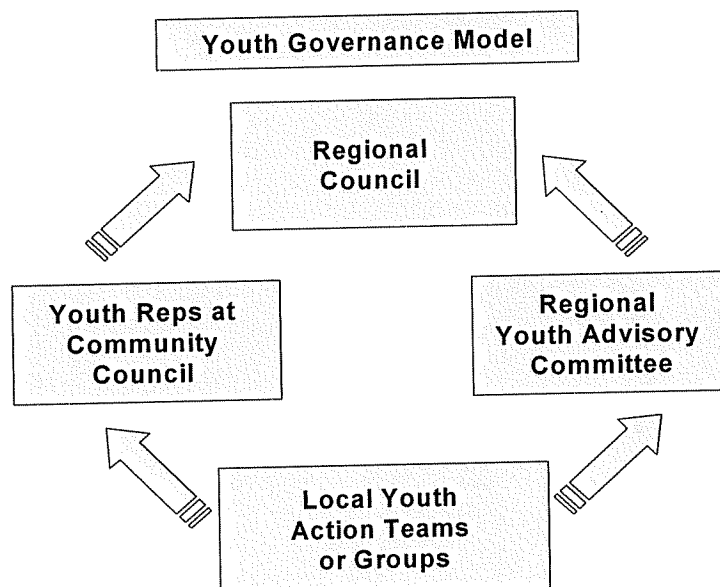
Regional level, which will focus on more complex issues and opportunities that affect youth across the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Model is generally described below:

1. Youth Action Teams at the Local Level

- Individuals or groups of youth that either come together regularly or informally based on geography or issues;
- These groups will be representative and should comprise of no less than 6 youth between ages 10 to 19;
- Youth informally identify issues or opportunities of local concern and bring these to the attention of community based staff (ie. Community Recreation and Halifax Regional Library)
- Community Recreation and Halifax Regional Library staff will support youth in implementing community initiatives and projects to address these issues and opportunities;
- Community Developers, Community Recreation Programmers, and Halifax Regional Library staff will provide leadership, community consultation and engagement training; and
- Community Developers, Community Recreation Programmers, and Halifax Regional Library staff will assist youth in advancing their respective issues and opportunities through the approved governance model.

2. Youth Representation at the Community Council Level

- Youth representatives from formal Youth Action Teams (YAT) or informal youth groups will be invited to report to Community Council on issues and opportunities at the local level
- Community Developers will facilitate a meeting among the youth action teams and informal youth groups to identify issues and opportunities that they would like to advance at the Community Council level;
- youth representatives will attend their respective Community Council;
- youth presentations will be a regular monthly agenda item of each Community Council.



3. Regional Youth Advisory Committee - Regional Level

- A Regional Youth Advisory Committee (RYAC) shall be formed and comprised of twelve (12) youth and three (3) Councillors;
- Two (2) Youth from each of the Community Council districts will sit on the RYAC;
- The RYAC will identify issues and opportunities that impact youth at the regional level;
- RYAC shall meet monthly;
- RYAC will annually conduct a youth town hall meeting; and
- RYAC will report directly to Regional Council and be supported by Community Relations and Events staff.

Conclusion

Youth Fest clearly satisfied the objectives as originally envisioned. In consideration of a future “youth fest” conference, however, it is staff’s opinion that the focus needs to be on supporting the local youth action teams and the Regional Youth Advisory Committee. By providing local connections and building relationships with councillors and other adults, young people will be mentored and guided by positive role models.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this proposed model is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000 annually and is available from the approved operating budget under cost centre D710. Any future initiatives identified through this group would be funded through future operating budgets.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to make amendments to the proposed governance model. This is not recommended given that the proposed structure was primarily designed primarily by a working body of youth.


ATTACHMENTS


Attachment - HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee Terms Of Reference

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Attachment 1

**HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee
Terms of Reference (DRAFT)**

MANDATE

The HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee shall review, evaluate and make recommendations to Regional Council regarding issues pertaining to youth such as Recreation Programs and Services, Facility Development (Indoor and Outdoor), Events (Youth and Community), Youth Grants, Transportation, Art and Culture and emerging issues with the support from staff of the Community Relations and Events Division of the Community Development Department.

1. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

- 1.1 The HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee shall comprise a voting membership, totaling fifteen (15) as follows:
 - 1.1.1 Three elected members of Halifax Regional Council representing the urban, suburban and rural areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality;
 - 1.1.2 Twelve (12) members-at-large from the community between the ages of thirteen (13) and nineteen (19), two shall be nominated by from each of the six (6) Community Council areas.
- 1.2 The representatives of Regional Council shall be appointed by the Council Selection Committee and shall inform Regional Council of their selection.
- 1.3 The members-at-large shall be appointed by Regional Council.
- 1.4 The Chair may be elected representative or a citizen member and shall be selected annually by the voting members of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee. The Chair shall have one (1) vote.
- 1.5 The HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee will be supported by Community Relations and Events staff.

2. TERM OF OFFICE

- 2.1 Each elected representative shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, renewable each year.
- 2.2 Community representatives shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year and thereafter may be re-appointed for a term of one (1) year.

- 2.3 A call for citizen membership shall be conducted each fall through the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. VACANCIES

- 3.1 The Chair shall inform the Clerk's Office of any vacancies.
- 3.2 Should a vacancy occur during an elected member's term of office the Council Selection Committee and Regional Council shall appoint a new representative to complete the balance of the term.
- 3.3 Should a vacancy occur during a citizen's term of office Regional Council shall appoint a replacement to complete the balance of the term.
- 3.4 Effective as of the date of official notification of a vacancy for a citizen representative, Regional Council shall be notified by staff. Regional Council shall then appoint a new citizen member. The replacement shall be selected from among the names submitted during the annual call for citizen representatives. In the event of the unavailability of an alternate from the list of names submitted for consideration through an annual call for committee members, Regional Council may appoint a citizen through an additional call for expressions of interest.

4. DUTIES

The duties of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee are to:

- 4.1 Advise Regional Council on all matters related to youth in the Halifax Regional Municipality, including Recreation Programs and Services, Facility Development (Indoor and Outdoor), Events (Youth and Community), Youth Grants, Transportation, Art and Culture and emerging issues;
- 4.2 Will identify and bring forward issues and opportunities important to youth.
- 4.3 The duties of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee shall be reviewed annually by staff and Committee members and may be amended by Regional Council on an on-going basis.

5. QUORUM

- 5.1 A quorum at a regular meeting of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee shall be a simple majority of members (8) of which two (2) shall be the elected representatives.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1 The committee shall meet as required to review and advise on issues pertaining to youth
- 6.2 The Chair in consultation with staff shall be responsible for calling all meetings of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee.
- 6.3 Notice of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee meetings and minutes shall be provided by the Office of the Community Relations and Events Division.

7. REMUNERATION

Members of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee shall not be remunerated for serving on the committee except where reimbursement is made in accordance with HRM policy for reasonable expenses incurred while in the service of the Committee.

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Where personal or professional involvement or association could result in an actual or perceived conflict of interest for a member of the HRM Regional Youth Advisory Committee, the member shall declare the conflict and abstain from debate on the related topic, or where appropriate remove themselves from a meeting and shall not vote on any motion applying to the declared conflict.