



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5, Canada

**Item No. 10.3.2**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 28, 2010**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original signed  
Councillor Russell Walker, Chair, HRM Grants Committee

**DATE:** September 14, 2010

**SUBJECT:** HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011 – Appeals

**ORIGIN**

September 13, 2010 HRM Grants Committee meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* appeals as detailed in the Discussion section of the July 26, 2010 staff report for a total of five (5) grants for a combined total value of \$25,900 from operating account M311-8004 - Grants & Tax Concessions.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

During the HRM Grants Committee September 13, 2010 meeting, the Committee passed a motion that the Capital Grant to the Friends of Ivy Meadows be increased to **\$12,000** from \$5,000 as noted on page 2 of the July 26, 2010 staff report.

The Committee's rationale for an increase in the value of award was based on the following:

- the location of the Ivy Meadows Continuing Care Facility (largely isolated without public transportation and limited taxi service)
- the lack of transportation has decreased leisure opportunities for residents; and
- the proportional share of the costs raised by the volunteer society.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The adjustment to the Friends of Ivy Meadows Capital Grant by \$7,000 increases the recommended awards total to **\$25,000** from \$18,900 to be paid out of Account M311-8004 – Grants & Tax Concessions. The balance remaining in this account would be **\$13,852** instead of the \$19,852 previously reported.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

As per the attached July 26, 2010 staff report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As per the attached July 26, 2010 staff report.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

As per the attached July 26, 2010 staff report.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. July 26, 2010 Staff Report

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

Report Prepared by: Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office, 490-6519



PO Box 1749  
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HRM Grants Committee  
September 13, 2010

**TO:** Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

Original signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

**DATE:**

July 26, 2010

**SUBJECT:**

HRM Community Grants Program 2010-2011 - Appeals

### **ORIGIN**

Staff report to HRM Grants Committee dated May 17, 2010 - 73 awards recommended for funding.  
Grants Committee report to Regional Council on June 22, 2010 - recommended awards approved.

This report addresses eight (8) appeals received by the deadline of July 21, 2010. The program is now closed for 2010-2011.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the HRM Community Grants Committee approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* appeals as detailed in the Discussion section of this report for a total of 5 grants for a combined total value of \$18,900 from operating account M311-8004 -Grants & Tax Concessions.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 2010-2011 *Community Grants Program* received 98 on-time applications for a combined total of \$836,125. Twelve (12) were deemed ineligible. Seventy-three (73) awards were approved for a total of \$464,948 and 13 were not recommended for funding. Applicants have two weeks from the date of notification should they wish to appeal ineligibility, the value of the award, or the rationale for decline. It should be noted, however, that every year the total value of requests exceed the program's budget. Therefore, not all applicants can be funded, irrespective of relative merit or type of project.

As of July 21, 2010 deadline, eight appeals were received, one from a Councillor Dalrymple and seven from applicant organizations. The appeals are reviewed on the basis of: (1) new information unavailable to the reviewer or applicant at the time of submission, or (2) an error in the application of program policy and procedures.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Friends of Ivy Meadows - Beaverbank - Recreation and Leisure**

The Friends of Ivy Meadows requested a grant in the amount of \$25,000 towards the purchase of a wheelchair accessible bus that costs \$78,450. The vehicle is to be used to transport residents living at the Ivy Meadows Continuing Care Facility located at 125 Knowles Crescent, Beaverbank. The application was declined because the bus is only used in relation to a privately owned nursing home with limited public benefit. Further, there is no financial contribution from the company despite web site advertising to suggest that this was a service offered at the nursing home. Staff recommend this appeal be upheld on the basis of new information. Specifically, the nursing home is located in an isolated rural area with limited transportation. The applicant was not aware of the company's advertising and have confirmed that the bus is an asset owned by the society albeit driven by company staff due to licensing and insurance requirements that exceed volunteer capacity. To date, the society has raised over \$56,000 and continue to fund raise.

***Staff recommend a capital grant in the amount of \$5,000<sup>1</sup>.***

### **2. Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club - Dartmouth - Recreation and Leisure**

The Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club requested \$20,000 towards roof and floor repairs, and the purchase and installation of two new exterior doors. The projected total costs are \$23,000. The application was declined due to delinquent reporting (2009-2010 grant). Following notification, the final report was received on April 30, 2010. However, HRM staff have concerns regarding possible overstatement of estimated costs and HRM's proportional share of the actual project expenses. Staff recommend the appeal be declined: the club's financial statement indicate an ability to self-finance.

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<sup>1</sup> The value of this award is comparable to a grant provided to the Walter Callow Wheelchair Bus which provides transportation services for veterans and persons with a disability.

*Staff recommend decline.*

*Recommend applicant be referred to HRM staff for assistance with future grant applications and reporting.*

**3. St. Margaret's Bay Community Hall & Legion - St. Margaret's Bay - Recreation and Leisure**

The St. Margaret's Bay Community Hall & Legion requested a grant in the amount of \$32,500 for grading a parking lot and driveway, repairs to two washroom facilities and flooring, and the purchase of a commercial grade kitchen stove. The total estimated costs are \$32,500. The application was declined as late and for delinquent reporting (2009-2010 grant). Following notification the final report was submitted May 11, 2010. The appeal review recommends funding for a new kitchen stove to replace the four domestic appliances presently used. Food preparation is a central feature of the facility's programming (especially for seniors) and revenue generation in relation to hall rentals. Typically, the *Community Grants Program* does not fund parking facilities.

*Staff recommend a capital grant in the amount of \$7,400 for the purchase of a commercial grade kitchen stove.*

*Recommend applicant be referred to HRM staff for assistance with future grant applications and reporting. Information also to be provided regarding other non-municipal funding programs.*

**4. Aeolian Singers - Halifax - Arts and Crafts**

The Aeolian Singers requested \$3,000 to commission Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield to create a new work to be performed at a concert celebrating the choir's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. The concert theme is raising awareness of women's heart health. The estimated project costs total \$12,750. The application was not recommended for funding based on an over-subscribed Arts and Crafts sector and relative to other applicants. Further, the *Community Grants Program* does not fund community health projects or anniversary events. Staff recommend this appeal be upheld on the basis of new information provided by the applicant. Specifically, a letter of support provided by the Nova Scotia Choral Society indicating that while visiting Nova Scotia for rehearsals with the Aeolian Singers the composer will conduct workshops for other choirs in the Metro area, including school choirs.

*Staff recommend a grant in the amount of \$2,500 towards commission of an original composition. Conditional upon confirmation of programming for local choirs (date, location, and participant fees as applicable).*

**5. 2b Theatre Company - Halifax - Arts and Crafts**

The 2b Theatre Company requested \$4,080.98 to purchase two microphones and a projector. The estimated total project costs are \$4,080.98. The application was declined on the basis of a delinquent reporting (2009-2010 grant). Following notification the report was received on May 27, 2010. However, staff have concerns regarding compliance with the conditions of funding, ie., ineligible expenditures. Staff recommend decline: full funding was requested and the group's financial statement indicate there is capacity to at least cost-share.

*Staff recommend decline.*

**6. S.S Atlantic Heritage Park Society - Terence Bay - Community History**

The S.S. Atlantic Heritage Park Society requested \$2,500 for development of a promotional brochure targeting youth. Total estimated project costs are \$3,148. The application was declined due to delinquent reporting. Following notification the final report was received April 16, 2010. Staff recommend this appeal be upheld: the quality of reporting/product for last year's grant is good and the application indicates cost-sharing albeit the society's net revenues are modest.

*Staff recommend a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for graphic design services, photography, and printing(excludes mailing).*

**7. Parish of St. Barnabas Church (St. Paul's Church Hall) - West Ecum Secum - Recreation and Leisure**

St. Paul's Church Hall is owned by the Parish of St. Barnabas Church (New Chester) and operated by a church council of local parishioners. The group requested \$5,000 to replace shingles with siding, exterior wall insulation, and window/door trim. The estimated project costs are \$5,828. The project was declined funding on the basis of prior municipal grants towards repairs with limited fundraising and no contribution from the property owner. Staff recommend this appeal be upheld: the work is intended to reduce annual heating costs and the application indicates cost-sharing albeit the group's net revenues are modest.

*Staff recommend a grant in the amount of \$2,000 towards building energy efficiency upgrades. Conditional upon confirmation of cost-sharing.*

*Recommend applicant be referred to HRM staff for assistance with future grant applications and reporting. Information also to be provided regarding other non-municipal funding programs.*

**8. Hooked Rug Museum of North America Society - Queensland - Arts & Crafts**

The Hooked Rug Museum requested a capital grant of \$25,000 towards roof repairs, and upgrades to electrical, heating and ventilation systems. A grant of \$20,000 was approved for the electrical, heating and ventilation upgrades due to the importance of adequate climate control for archival collections. The applicant has appealed the terms of the award. Specifically, they request that the grant be applied to roof repairs estimated to cost \$28,022.30 so as to avoid water damage.

*Staff recommend the terms of funding be amended to re-assign the grant to roof repairs. Conditional upon confirmation of cost-sharing. There are no budget implications to the program.*

*Recommend applicant be referred to HRM staff for assistance with future grant applications and reporting.*

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The program budget for 2010-2011 was \$503,700. As of June 22, 2010, seventy-three (73) awards were approved for a combined total of \$464,948 leaving a balance of \$38,752. If approved, the five (5) recommended awards total \$18,900 to be paid out of Account M311-8004 -Grants & Tax Concessions. The balance remaining is \$19,852.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement is not applicable. Staff and Grants Committee reports are posted on the HRM web site.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Grants Committee could overturn or amend a staff recommendation.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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

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Original signed

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