

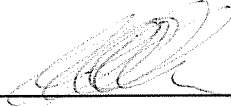
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Halifax Regional Council
October 21, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

PREPARED BY: 
Cathie O'Toole, Executive Assistant - CAO Office

DATE: October 21, 2003

SUBJECT: HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund

ORIGIN

Following Hurricane Juan on September 28th, private citizens and various corporate groups have contacted HRM anxious to offer assistance to help the municipality recover from the devastating impact of the hurricane. Offers include financial donations, donation of physical assets, volunteer labour or services, and numerous suggestions regarding fundraising, or commemorative initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- that Council approve the attached Terms of Reference (Attachment A) for the HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund (HIRF) Committee.
- that Council approve the HRM Infrastructure Recovery Fund to be comprised of three separate operating trust accounts for accounting purposes - one for restoration of general parks and recreation facilities, one for restoration of the Public Gardens, and one for restoration of Point Pleasant Park.
- that Council approve the establishment of the Halifax Public Gardens Restoration Foundation to make use of the funds raised by the Maritime Broadcasting Systems radioathon on October 13th. The Foundation will be governed by a Board of Trustees. The

formal Terms of Reference regarding the Halifax Public Gardens Foundation will be brought forward to council for approval at a later date. (Attachment B outlines the composition proposed for the Foundation's Board of Trustees, who would serve on a gratis basis)

BACKGROUND

Financial Services will establish three operating accounts to record and report financial donations received directly by HRM following Hurricane Juan. Tax receipts can be issued for amounts of \$10 or more. The balance and activity of these accounts will be reported collectively as the HRM Infrastructure Renewal Fund when the Miscellaneous Operating Trusts are reported in the Quarterly Financial Reports.

The HRM Infrastructure Renewal Committee will consider ideas and proposals from the public regarding fundraising and commemorative initiatives, and rebuilding and renewal of HRM community assets damaged by Hurricane Juan. The Committee will bring forward recommendations to Council, and expenditures greater than \$10,000 will be brought forward to Council for approval. The CAO will have signing authority for expenditures less than \$10,000. The relatively restrictive signing authority limit is reflective of the fact that the public will have high expectations regarding our accountability and responsible use of these donated funds.

There are other non-HRM controlled funds/trusts being established pertaining to Hurricane Juan recovery that may have different structures or objectives. For example, the Hurricane Juan Recovery Fund announced by the Provincial government on October 10th. Funds raised by the Maritime Broadcasting Systems radiothon on October 13th are going to be the main funding source for restoration of the Public Gardens which will be led by the Halifax Public Gardens Restoration Foundation. HRM will retain responsibility for accounting and reporting on the funds, and significant expenditures from the Public Gardens Restoration Foundation will be brought forward to Council. The administrative details and terms of reference for the Public Gardens Restoration Foundation will be developed within the next week, in cooperation with Maritime Broadcasting Systems and McInnes Cooper Robertson. It is intended that HRM will coordinate any initiatives involving HRM property.

DISCUSSION

In order to respond responsibly to the many suggestions and opportunities being submitted by the public, it is important to move quickly in establishing a strategic group to guide the infrastructure recovery and create a transparent process to account for donations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The extent to which donations and fundraising initiatives will alleviate some of the operating and capital fiscal pressures created by Hurricane Juan is not known. Attached is a spreadsheet that outlines donations, financial initiatives, and other ideas received to date from the public.

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

None - the Municipality is not in a position to turn away donations, or to take anything less than a lead role in restoring municipal assets. The activities of the HRM Infrastructure Renewal Committee, Council, and the Public Gardens Restoration Foundation will impact the appearance of the municipality and quality of life of the residents.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - HRM Infrastructure Renewal Committee Terms of Reference
Attachment B - Public Gardens Restoration Foundation Outline

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.
Report Prepared by: Cathie O'Toole, CGA - Executive Assistant, CAO's Office

**HRM Infrastructure Renewal Committee
Recovering from Hurricane Juan**

Terms of Reference

Purpose: To provide recommendations to Council regarding the rebuilding and renewal of HRM community assets damaged by Hurricane Juan.

To assess fundraising initiatives, ideas and proposals received from the public, private sector, community groups, and non-profit organizations with respect to their feasibility, impact and congruence with citizen and Council values where uncertainty may exist about options or competing interests.

To provide a link between the community, stakeholder groups, and the staff of HRM.

To minimize the financial impact of Hurricane Juan on the operating and capital budgets by capitalizing on the many donations and fund raising initiatives coming forward, and to maximize the value that redevelopment will have on the community. To rebuild and improve, not just restore.

Reporting to: Executive Management Team

Membership: Cathie O'Toole, contact for public, and Chair of the Committee
Greg McEachern, contact for other levels of Government
Carol Macomber, to ensure consistency with the Regional Plan
Dale MacLennan, to ensure projects are not provided for under other funding sources such as the Provincial Hurricane Juan Recovery Fund, or Disaster Financial Assistance.
Rick DeVan, to ensure congruence with RPAM activities.
PWT rep, to ensure congruence with PWT activities.
Councillor, to reflect Council's views.

Timeframe: One year, with re-assessment of term at six months, and at the end of the year.

Guidelines: To examine all suggestions and proposals regarding donations/fundraising, rebuilding, and renewal.
To minimize impact on HRM operating and capital budgets related to renewal
To build partnerships with the community
To ensure public input is obtained on priorities and values
To work with existing committees and organizations already in existence.
To ensure business units are engaged in the development of recommendations
To ensure financial sustainability on a go forward basis
To ensure consistency with the Regional Plan

Deliverables: Recommend projects to commemorate, rebuild and renew municipal assets

- Action Plan:**
- 1) Identify community assets damaged and quantify the impact
 - 2) Determine extent to which rebuilding can be funded under the Disaster Recovery Fund or insurance.
 - 3) Collect ideas on donations/fundraising, and commemorative opportunities
 - 4) Develop and initial priority list and related stakeholders
 - 5) Develop partnerships focussed on these priorities
 - 6) Ensure input from business units
 - 7) Ensure proposals for projects are developed with the appropriate business units and brought forward to Council.

Public Gardens Restoration Foundation
Concept Outline

Purpose: To elevate the profile of the Public Gardens restoration and fundraising initiatives.
To make recommendations regarding the restoration of the Public Gardens
To make recommendations regarding the expenditure of the funds raised by the Maritime Broadcasting Systems radiothon.

Board of Trustees: Representative from Maritime Broadcasting Systems (Robert Pace)
Mayor or his designate
CAO or his designate
Councillor for the District - Dawn Sloane
HRM Representative from Parks
Representative from HRM Infrastructure Renewal Committee
Representative from the National Capital Commission
Representative from Parks Canada
Representative from the Governor General's Garden organization
Two high profile representatives from the business community

Structure: Similar to the Halifax Foundation. HRM will be responsible for the accounting and reporting of the money held in the Foundation's name. The Foundation will bring forward recommendations to council. Board members will serve on a gratis basis. A terms of reference and structure will be developed within the next two weeks and brought forward to Council.