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Item No. 9.2.1
Community Planning & Economic
Development Standing Committee
February 12, 2015

TO: Chair and Members, Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY: Craig Walkington, Chair, Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee

DATE: January 26, 2015

SUBJECT: **Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee - Guiding Principles and Vision Statement**

ORIGIN

January 14, 2015 meeting of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Terms of Reference of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee are provided in *Administrative Order 2014-005-GOV, Respecting the Special Advisory Committee on the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion*.

As per the Terms of Reference, the Committee reports to Regional Council, through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee adopt the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Program Guiding Principles and Vision Statement attached to this report as the Vision and Principles to guide the various components of the Municipal Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative program.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee was formed by Regional Council adoption of Administrative Order 2014-005-GOV on June 10, 2014.

DISCUSSION

The Committee's mandate is to provide advice to staff from Parks and Recreation (Real Property Planning, and Events & Cultural Initiatives departments), and Finance & ICT (Tax, Grants & Special Projects department), on the development of a Municipal Commemorative Program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. In particular, the Commemorative Program is to consist of three components:

1. A civic commemorative event, led by HRM that will include elected officials from the governments of Canada, the Province, and HRM, as well as community leaders and member so the general public;
2. A legacy capital project (namely the Fort Needham Memorial Park Plan); and
3. A designated grant program to deliver projects in recognition of the significance of the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

The Committee has worked to develop a set of Guiding Principles and a Vision Statement (Attachments 1 and 2 of this report), to provide focus and definition to staff and to the Committee in moving forward with the development of the Commemorative Program. Staff have been engaged throughout the development of the Guiding Principles and Vision Statement.

At their January 14, 2015 meeting, the Committee gave final review to the Guiding Principles and Vision Statement, and approved both as set out in Attachments 1 and 2 of this report and are forwarding them to the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee with the recommendation that they be adopted as the Vision and Principles to guide the various components of the Municipal Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee is comprised of volunteer members of the community. The Committee regularly meets on a monthly basis, and all meetings are open to the public, unless stated otherwise on the agenda. Agendas, reports, and minutes are available online.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified by the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Guiding Principles – Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee

Attachment 2 Vision Statement - Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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Attachment 1

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Program Guiding Principles *(as approved by the Committee on January 14, 2015)*

1. It will be a solemn, respectful and reflective commemoration honouring the victims of the Halifax Explosion, the response, and the legacy.
2. It will acknowledge and tell the diverse personal, national and international story, which had a lasting legacy.
3. It will reflect diversity of all the communities impacted such as relatives of survivors, African NS and Mi'kmaq communities
4. It will educate and connect people, particularly youth, to the history and meaning of the Halifax explosion in different ways
5. It will encourage community members participate through a variety of cultural and creative modes
6. It will capture the local and National imagination and attention
7. It will acknowledge and explore the scope of the compassionate response
8. It will explore institutional responses to the impact of disaster, including within the context of war
9. It will have a perpetual meaning for future generations
10. It's legacy projects will strive to be compelling, meaningful, evocative and an enduring commemoration

Attachment 2

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Program Guiding Principles *(as approved by the Committee on January 14, 2015)*

Preamble:

The most destructive, human-made explosion of the pre-atomic era occurred in Halifax Nova Scotia on the morning of December 6, 1917. It resulted from a collision and fire on board a munitions-laden freighter attempting to pass through the Narrows into Bedford Basin. Ignition of the vessel's lethal cargo sent a wave of destruction across the city. Worst hit were the northern sections of Halifax and the town of Dartmouth; thousands were killed, maimed, and left homeless.

The disaster became a pivotal moment in this city's history, prompting a massive mobilization of human and material resources to engage in a multi-faceted program of rescue, reconstruction and rehabilitation. Halifax, the nation, and indeed all those across the world who became involved with the explosion, now stand at the threshold of the explosion's centennial.

Vision Statement:

The Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemoration will honour the memory of those who died and suffered as a result of the explosion, will educate current and future generations about the significance of the event, and will celebrate the resilience of Halifax in rising from destruction to restore the full potential of the city and its people.