

**GRANTS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Geoff Baker
Mr. David Woo

REGRETS: Mr. Andrew Higdon
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Ms. Pamela Henley
Ms. Gina Byrne
Ms. Monica Jordan

STAFF: Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special
Projects
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:19 p.m. in the Duke Boardroom 1, 3rd floor Duke Tower.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 1, 2010 and March 4, 2010

February 1, 2010 Minutes

Councillor Lund noted a typo on page 6 indicating that the next meeting date was March 1, 2010 (which had been later rescheduled to March 4th) and not January 11, 2010.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the minutes of February 1, 2010, be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the minutes of March 4, 2010, be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants and Special Projects, suggested the following items be added to the agenda:

- 7.1 Fall River Friendly Group of Seniors
- 7.2 Valley Weeders Club
- 7.3 Short Term Leases
- 7.4 Refreshments

Councillor Watts requested Information Item #1 - HRM Community Grants Program: Ineligible Non-Profit Organizations, be added to the agenda as Item 7.5.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the Order of Business, be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. DEFERRED BUSINESS

4.1 Partial Tax Exemption for Homes Destroyed by Fire

Items before the Committee were as follows:

- An Extract of the December 7, 2009 HRM Grants Committee Minutes.
- An information report dated February 18, 2010.

Mr. Andre MacNeil, Financial Consultant, Fiscal & Tax Policy, provided an overview of the February 18, 2010 information report.

The Committee entered into a brief discussion, with staff responding to questions.

Mr. MacNeil noted that once the Fire Marshall has deemed a major fire to a property, staff would then forward an application to the property owner, who has six months to respond. The application form identifies the property owner's current mailing address.

Councillor Smith noted that there would be an additional 15 properties from 2007 and 2008 and asked how many properties would be included if the Committee were to consider moving the commencement date to December 2006. Mr. MacNeil advised that there are approximately 25 properties between the years 2006 and 2007.

During discussions, the Committee agreed that the retroactive date would remain December 1, 2008.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the Revised Administrative Order #10 - Respecting Partial Tax Exemption for Residential Taxation, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated February 18, 2010, with the retroactive effective date to remain December 1, 2008.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Walker advised he would give Notice of Motion during the April 13, 2010 Regional Council session.

Ms. Temple suggested that should Council approve the Committee's recommendation, Corporate Communications could issue a press release.

4.2 Property Matter: Less than Market Value Sale, 2463 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley - Waverley Ratepayers Association

- A staff report dated January 6, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple provided an update to the Committee, noting that the Heritage Advisory Committee is forwarding a positive recommendation to Regional Council. Staff recommend the Committee reject the Waverley Ratepayers Associations request of a \$40,000 buy-back clause, as it would set a precedent.

During a brief discussion, the Committee agreed not to include the Waverley Ratepayers Association's request of a \$40,000 buy-back clause in the Terms and Condition of Sale, as referenced in Attachment "A" of the staff report dated January 6, 2010. A statement will be included in the discussion section of the Grants report going forward to Regional Council on April 20, 2010.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the HRM Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle staff's recommendation to enter into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale

whereby the property located at 2463 Rocky Lake Drive, Waverley, be conveyed to the Waverley Ratepayers Association for the sum of \$1, plus all associated costs as per the terms and conditions set out in the discussion section of the January 6, 2010 staff report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. REPORTS

6.1 Community Grants Program 2010 - 2011: Adjudication of Eligibility

Ms. Temple advised that the grant application deadline passed on March 31, 2010. Staff has not received any late applications to date. She advised that the applications from the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame and the Hammonds Plains Community Centre Association required decisions from the Committee.

6.1.1 Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame

- Correspondence from Olive Jackson, Secretary of the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame, dated March 22, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple noted that the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame registered in May 27, 2009. The Grants Program Policy states that applicants be registered 12 months prior to the date of the application. The group should have been registered by March 31, 2009. The group is asking that the Committee accept their application for consideration of a \$5,000 grant. Ms. Temple advised that the majority of the group's expenses are not eligible; however, approximately \$2,000 could be put towards website development, which is eligible.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the HRM Grants Committee accept the application submitted by the Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame non-profit organization for consideration of a \$5,000 grant.

Ms. Temple confirmed that the date on the March 22, 2009 letter is a typo and should be March 22, 2010.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.1.2 Hammonds Plains Community Centre Association

- An extract of an email from Annette Verge, Operations Coordinator, to Peta-Jane Temple dated March 26, 2010 re: Hammonds Plains Grant Application was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple advised that staff is recommending the Committee accept the application

submitted by the Hammonds Plains Community Centre Association due to an error of omission by HRM. She noted that HRM's legal staff will try to acquire title back from Crown, at which time HRM could then subdivide the land and sell the facility back to Association.

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the HRM Grants Committee accept the application submitted by the Hammonds Plains Community Centre Association for consideration of a grant to assist with facility repairs.

Councillor Lund noted that the Association was under the impression that HRM owned the facility and were paying for maintenance repairs. Through further review it was determined that HRM does not own the property. He further noted that insurance is not presently being paid on the facility.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Non-Profit Tax Exemption Program: Update on Program Budget *(verbal update from staff)*

- HRM Non-Profit Tax Exemption Program Budget for 2006-2009 was before the Committee.

Ms. Temple provided an overview of the Program Budget for 2006-2009. She noted that non-profit organizations do not have their assessments capped, with the exception of non-profit housing cooperatives. She indicated that the Committee would require an additional \$300,000 budget increase to the program, to be able to conservatively address the 65 organizations on the waiting list, along with new applications coming forward. She noted there is a need to redesign the program.

Councillor Watts asked whether Council could ask the Province to advocate on their behalf to do a general review of the assessment cap for all non-profit housing and not just housing cooperatives. Ms. Temple suggested it would be better for HRM to focus on the redesign, rather than asking the Province to make this determination for them. Mr. MacNeil further commented the Province is doing a review of the assessment cap.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Fall River Friendly Group of Seniors

Ms. Temple advised that an application came forward under the Fall River Friendly Group of Seniors. The application is for a capital grant; however, the Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River Fireman's Association are the owners of the property. She is recommending the Committee accept a change in the name of the applicant to the owner of the property, LWF Fireman's Association. She noted that she has spoken to the LWF Association and advised them that the Committee could not provide funding to groups who access the facility. She commented that the Committee's guidelines need

to be more explicit to create less confusion. She clarified that the name change on the application has the consent if the LWF Fireman's Association as the owner.

Councillor Dalrymple noted a conflict in interest and indicate that he is a member of the LWF's Board. The Committee agreed that Councillor Darlymple did not have to leave the meeting, but was to refrain from speaking or voting.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the HRM Grants Committee accept a change in the name of the application from the Fall River Friendly Group of Seniors to the Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Fall River Fireman's Association. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Valley Weeders Club

Ms. Temple advised that the Valley Weeders Club is a garden club. They are not a registered non-profit in their own right; however, the Nova Scotian Association of Garden Clubs, which has six clubs in HRM, is a registered non-profit organization. Once again, the Committee requires clarity in the Program's Guidelines. She expressed concern that she does not want organizations to register as non-profits so they can be eligible to receive a grant. As well, organization should not be sharing their registered non-profit number with other organizations. Ms. Temple advised that staff has spoken to the Nova Scotian Association of Garden Clubs and the application was made with their knowledge and consent. The Association noted that they have never applied to the program and was not aware of the process. She asked whether the Committee would accept a name change to the applicant, with the owners consent, being the Nova Scotian Association of Garden Clubs/Valley Weeders Club.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the HRM Grants Committee accept the application submitted by the Valley Weeders Club with a change in the name of the applicant to be the Nova Scotian Association of Garden Clubs/Valley Weeders Club for consideration of a grant.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Short Term Leases

Ms. Temple indicated that a question was raised whether the Committee could expedite reports to Regional Council for the approval of short term leases. She noted that the only way the Committee could do this would be to bypass the Grants Committee and have the report go directly to Council. She noted that staff could prepare an information report, identifying the criteria and circumstances under which staff would be able to implement this policy.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Lund, that staff provide a report identifying the criteria and circumstances, under which staff could bypass the HRM Grants Committee and forward a report pertaining to short term leases

directly to Regional Council with such instances, to be reviewed at the next Committee meeting. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Temple advised that the Committee could forward any questions/concern to her prior to the next meeting.

7.4 Refreshments

Ms. Temple advised that due to financial consideration, staff recommends the Committee eliminate refreshments from their meetings. She noted that approximately \$50 per month is being spent on refreshments.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Smith, that refreshments no longer be provided at HRM Grants Committee meetings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.5 Information Item #1 - HRM Community Grants Program: Ineligible Non-Profit Organizations

Councillor Watts asked whether staff would be sending letters out to the non-profit organization that have not submitted a report identifying the breakdown of allocation for the grant they received.

Ms. Temple advised that all groups are forwarded reminder letters once the March 31st deadline has passed. Once a certain amount of reminder letters has been sent out, staff then put the organization on an ineligible list, which track ineligible organizations. Organizations are not eligible to apply for another grant until their previous grant breakdown report has been submitted. She noted that some of the organizations on the list go back as far as 2004. Staff will be updating the list and once complete, a copy will be provided to the Committee for review. An information report will then be forwarded to Regional Council for their review.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 3, 2010

Ms. Temple asked whether the Committee would be willing to hold an additional meeting towards the end of May to bring forward staff's grant recommendations.

Following a brief discussion, it was noted the Committee would maintain their regular meeting schedule to ensure the necessary quorum.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

April 12, 2010

1. HRM Community Grants Program: Ineligible Non-Profit Organizations
2. Municipal Funding of Trap, Neuter & Release Service for Feral Cats