



**GRANTS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
July 21, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Donald Dodge
Ms. Kate Watson
Mr. Jason Cooke
Mr. Francis Glover

REGRETS: Councillor Whitman
Mr. Darren Watts

STAFF: Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning
Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer
Mr. Andre MacNeil, Sr. Financial Consultant
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Grants Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/bccgrants/140721grantsagenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m., and adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

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

The Committee agreed to address Item 7.1.2 prior to Item 7.1.1.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Tax Appeal: The Deanery Project Cooperative Limited

This matter was addressed later in the meeting, see page 3.

7.1.2 Proposed Tax Relief Program Re-Design – staff presentation – Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation entitled: Non-Profit Tax Relief dated July 21, 2014
- A revised copy of page 6 of the staff presentation
- Handout entitled: Non-Profit Tax Rate Option 3 – Details by Category & Organization
- Handout entitled: Non-Profit Property Owners

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning delivered the presentation on non-profit tax relief in regard to the three tax rate options by category and program level impacts (i.e. increasing/decreasing).

The Committee entered into discussion. Mr. Fisher provided clarification around recreation tax, which he explained was not included in the non-profit tax rate as it is levied under the HRM Charter. He added that there was an option where some of the non-profits with larger land holdings (i.e. waterfront property) could be moved to recreation tax.

Staff responded to questions around the Non-Profit Tax Rate Option 3 – Details by Category & Organization. Mr. Fisher clarified that the nine categories under Community Non-Profit were all receiving identical tax. The division of this one large group into categories such as Child and Family or Sport and Recreation was done to help the Committee understand the impacts in order to make a decision whether there was greater or lesser impact on one category or the other. He added that it was within the Committee's purview to determine which organizations receives tax relief and how much.

The Committee continued to discuss the two handouts with staff. Mr. Fisher provided clarification around the three rate options by category, as outlined in the presentation.

MOVED by Mr. Cooke, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Grants Committee direct staff to return with draft tax rates for Option 3: Housing, Homelessness and Community Non-Profits; to be broken down into groups.

A brief discussion was held.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Item 7.1.1 addressed at this time.

7.1.1 Tax Appeal: The Deanery Project Cooperative Limited

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 2, 2014
- Submission from Richard Bell entitled: Overview Deanery Programming 2013

Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer provided an overview of the July 2, 2014 staff report. It was noted that staff's recommendation was to decline any further consideration of The Deanery Project Cooperative Limited's request for retroactive tax exemption.

The following motion was put on the floor as outlined the Alternatives section of the July 2, 2014 staff report. **MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve a one-time grant in the amount of \$815 to the Deanery Project Cooperative Limited for taxes, excluding interest on arrears, paid for the period December 6, 2012, to March 31, 2013, from account M311-8006 Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations.**

A brief discussion was held.

At the request of Councillor Hendsbee and with the Committee's approval, Mr. Richard Bell founding board member of the Deanery Project and Chair addressed the Committee. Mr. Bell expressed appreciation to the Committee for considering this one-time grant and provided background on the Deanery Project Cooperative Limited being a non-profit group and asked the Committee for their support.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee agreed to add Information Item 1 to the agenda at this time for discussion.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Information Item 1 - Memorandum from the Director of Finance & Information Technology/CFO dated July 2, 2014 entitled: Community Grants Program: Delinquent Reporting Update 2014

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff information report dated July 2, 2014

Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer provided an overview of the July 2, 2014 staff report and responded to questions on the three tables outlined in Attachment 1 of the report.

Following a brief discussion around Table 3: Updated Cumulative List of Organizations Deemed Ineligible, it was **MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Ms. Watson that the Grants Committee direct staff to send letters to the list of organizations outlined in Table 3, Attachment 1**

**of the July 2 staff report, requesting final expenditure reporting be provided by August 29, 2014.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, September 8, 2014, 1:00 p.m., Media Room, City Hall

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant