



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 9.1.1 (i)
Grants Committee
May 25, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**

Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO

DATE: May 12, 2016

SUBJECT: **Community Grants Program 2016: Referrals**

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

May 2, 2016 – Grants Committee review of proposed *Community Grants Program* awards for 2016. The committee referred four (4) applications to staff for further review: The Deanery Project Cooperative Limited, Grand Lake Oakfield Community Society, Windsor Junction Community Centre Society, and the Old School Gathering Place Cooperative Limited.

May 10, 2016 – Regional Council referred two (2) applications to staff for further review: Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association and St. James Anglican Church.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008) s.79(1) “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for... (av) a grant or contribution to

(v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province,

(vii) a registered Canadian charitable organization;”

HRM Charter (2008) s.79(2) a grant issued pursuant to s.71(1) shall be publicized in a newspaper in circulation throughout the region.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve five (5) awards as detailed in the Discussion section of this report for a combined total of \$24,900 from Operating Account Community Grants Program M311-8004.

BACKGROUND

The *HRM Community Grants Program* provides access to project-specific cash grants to eligible registered non-profit organizations located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality. In accordance with legislation, grants and contributions must be approved by Regional Council and the public notified of any awards through an advertisement placed in a newspaper circulating throughout the region. All reports and minutes are available to the public through the HRM web site and notices placed in the Municipal Notices section of the *Chronicle-Herald* newspaper. Grant applications ineligible for consideration are listed in a companion Information Report dated April 10, 2016.

DISCUSSION

A. Recommended Awards

ENVIRONMENT

Tier 2

1. Deanery Project Cooperative Limited – Lower Ship Harbour – Project Grant/Equipment

The Cooperative operates a former church campground to provide instructional programming in environmental stewardship (forest management, energy conservation, food supply, natural building methods and arts). Operations are sustained by program fees and non-recurring grants. The Municipality provides partial tax relief. A grant of \$5,000 requested towards the purchase of a kitchen stove, refrigerator and commercial cooler (combined total \$7,820). Funding was not recommended on the basis of incomplete financial information and an ability to self-fund or phase purchases. The application was referred for further review based on the condition of the current appliances. As requested, the applicant provided updated financial information and prioritized the purchase of items. Funding for the purchase of a new commercial grade propane stove recommended: the original appliance was removed by the prior facility operator and replaced with two second-hand electric stoves that are too small and not fully operational. The propane hook-up and fire suppression system are intact and can be repurposed to accept the replacement. ***A grant of \$4,000 recommended for the purchase of a commercial grade propane stove.***

RECREATION & LEISURE

Tier 1

2. Grand Lake Oakfield Community Society – Capital Grant/Building Upgrade

The Society own and operate a community hall with playground and baseball field. Operations are sustained by an area rate, fundraising and project-specific grants. The property is tax exempt by virtue of accommodating HRM Fire & Emergency Services. A grant of \$25,000 requested towards two projects (i) interior re-modelling and (ii) outdoor grading and repairs (\$48,400). The initial application was not recommended for funding on the basis of relative priority in relation to the program's funding goals, an inability to identify the cost of individual elements, and the potential to phase work as funds permit. The referral asked staff to try and obtain an itemized list of expenditures with corresponding costs and identify elements with high merit and an ability to complete prior to March 31, 2017.

- the applicant provided an itemized list of work with the corresponding cost estimate as requested;
- confirmed self-funding in the amount of \$16,000;
- revised the scope of work to \$32,000 (a decrease of \$16,000) and mitigated the projected deficit as presented in the initial project budget submission.

From the revised information staff identified washroom replacement and updated electrical wiring as priority items relative to the funding category's goals and recommend partial funding. ***A capital grant of \$8,000 recommended towards community hall upgrades.***

3.Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association – Cherry Brook – Project Grant/Equipment

The Association was founded in 1979 to promote the development of the area. The Association is self-funded through membership dues and fundraising. A grant of \$4,533.59 was requested to purchase assorted sports equipment, a barbeque, and assorted exercise equipment. Partial funding in the amount of \$1,200 was recommended for the purchase of larger outdoor sports equipment (soccer nets, badminton nets/posts, baseball field bases, badminton rackets, baseball safety equipment and bats) on the basis of limited storage available at the Graham Creighton Community Room location. Funding to purchase (i) a barbeque is not recommended on the basis of non-recurring use/no indoor storage on-site/not a strong relation to physical activity outcomes, or (ii) assorted small exercise items. Additional funding recommended for exercise equipment (yoga mats, hand weights, stability balls, and baseball equipment). ***A grant of \$2,400 recommended towards the purchase of small exercise and sports equipment.***

Note: The *Community Grants Program* does not fund small, relatively inexpensive items such as balls, badminton shuttles, a compass or backpack.

Tier 2

4.St. James Anglican Church – Halifax – Capital Grant/Accessibility Upgrade

The church is self-sustaining through congregational offerings, hall rentals, interest and dividends on bequests held in perpetuity (restricted assets). The property is tax exempt under the Assessment Act. A grant of \$14,300 requested towards installation of a platform elevator lift, exterior ramp and railings, automatic door-opener and electrical (\$27,660). The applicant's cost-share of \$11,350 confirmed and application will be made to the provincial government (\$5,000 unconfirmed). The Social, Cultural, and Recreational Inclusion Society has a 5-year lease for a portion of the premises (expires in 3 years) and has requested accessibility improvements. As a registered charity the applicant is eligible to apply for a partial HST rebate. A grant of \$6,500 was recommended towards the lift purchase and installation. Further review was requested on the basis of community rentals. An additional award of \$4,500 represents ~50% cost-share but as of the date of application \$7,000 remains unconfirmed. It should be noted that the tenant (SCRI) has no stated financial contribution to what might be considered leasehold improvements. ***A conditional grant of \$4,500 recommended towards the purchase and installation of a platform lift. Hold-back pending confirmation of the scope of work and ability to proceed/complete in fiscal year 2016.***

5.Windsor Junction Community Centre Association – Capital Grant/Building Upgrade

The Association own and operate a community hall sustained by an area rate and program fees. The Municipality provides full tax relief. A grant of \$15,851 requested to fully fund the construction of a wrap-around deck, pergola roof feature, and wheelchair ramp. The applicant receives an area rate and full municipal tax relief. Access to seasonal summer camp and aquatic programs for area residents and if capacity permits associate members may be accepted. Referred for further review on the basis of limited facility accessibility/over-crowding.

- a site visit was conducted on May 10, 2016;
- the 60'x12' deck is an addition to the building, not a replacement, to provide access to a new entrance and an outdoor holding/seating area;
- the existing wheelchair ramp is not to code;
- confirmation that the deck's pergola feature for shade/rain can be phased;
- applicant has identified other sources of funding to pursue.

When the pergola feature is removed the total estimated cost to construct a new deck with access ramp is approximately \$12,000. Partial funding recommended. ***A capital grant of \$6,000 recommended towards the construction of a deck with wheelchair ramp. Holdback pending confirmation of project's ability to proceed.***

Table 1. Prior Funding for the 4-Year Period 2012 to 2015

Name	2012	2013	2014	2015	Other
Deanery Project Cooperative Limited		\$10,000	\$5,000		Tax Relief
Grand Lake Oakfield Community Society	\$10,000			\$10,000	Tax Exempt
Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association					
St. James Anglican Church					Tax Exempt
Windsor Junction Community Centre Association	\$10,000				Tax Relief

B. Not Recommended for Funding in 2016

COMMUNITY HISTORY

6.Old School Community Gathering Place Cooperative Limited

A grant of \$16,378 requested to fully fund the completion of exterior “painting and parging”, window caulking and cladding. The request was not recommended for funding based on (i) a prior grant of \$10,000 (approximately 50% of costs) towards exterior painting based on the value of HRM’s property donation an ability to phase the project” (Report to Grants Committee, May 4, 2015, p.16), (ii) from the financial information provided there appears to be an ability to cost-share, and (iii) variance in technical specifications/quotes provided. Referred for further review based on:

- expenditures made on other building upgrades; and
- to confirm ability/inability to cost-share.

Subsequent to the initial review staff have confirmed that application has been made to ACOA for capital funding that includes painting and parging. Potential duplication.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Community Grants Program 2016 Budget M311-8004	\$500,000
Less Awards (Approved May 10, 2016)	(\$432,751)
Less Proposed Awards: Referrals	(\$24,900)
Balance	\$42,349

RISK CONSIDERATION

November 4, 2013 – Grants Committee approval of recommendations regarding default prevention and management practices for cash grants, tax relief, community sales and leasing approved by the Audit & Finance Standing Committee at their meeting of November 20, 2013.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, applicant scoring, and previous awards are posted on the municipality’s web site. Printed materials are also available from all Customer Contact Centres and the Corporate Call Centre. Public participation on the Grants Committee is convened through the office of the Municipal Clerk. Legislation mandates that the general public be informed of any grant or contribution through a notice in a newspaper in circulation throughout the region. The *Community Grants Program* criteria are published annually in a guidebook. Formal reports are posted to the

municipality's web site and a notice publicizing awards is placed in the Municipal Notices section of the Chronicle-Herald newspaper.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

The Grants Committee could overturn a recommendation to decline funding or a proposed award, amend the value of recommended award, or the proposed terms and conditions of funding.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, Finance & ICT 902.490.5469;
Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions, Finance & ICT.

Report Approved by: Original Signed
Bruce Fisher, Manager Financial Policy & Planning, Finance & ICT 902.490.4493



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Item No. 9.1.1 (ii)
HRM Grants Committee
May 25, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Louis de Montbrun, Acting for Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT

DATE: May 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Community Grants Program 2016: Referral

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

May 18, 2016 – Internal referral of a grant application from the interim *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* to the *Community Grants Program* for consideration in fiscal year 2016.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008) s.79(1) “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for... (av) a grant or contribution to:

- (v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province,
- (vii) a registered Canadian charitable organization.

HRM Charter (2008) s.79(2) a grant issued pursuant to s.71(1) shall be publicized in a newspaper in circulation throughout the region.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Regional Council approve a project grant in the amount of \$5,000 to Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery toward hosting the national touring exhibition *Walking With Our Sisters*.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the interim *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* received an application from Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery for financial assistance in hosting the *Walking With Our Sisters* touring exhibition. The project is distinct insofar as the gallery does not manage the project but rather

plays a facilitation role to the Walking With Our Sisters National Collective, a volunteer-led initiative¹ that engaged artists across Canada and internationally in a commemorative art project to honor and raise awareness of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada and the United States.

The application was received by the stated March 31st, 2016, deadline and although schools and post-secondary institutions are eligible for consideration under the interim *Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* the project's execution does not align well with the professional arts program's economic development aims. Given both the emphasis on volunteer leadership and the use of visual arts to increase awareness of social justice issues, staff referred the file to the *Community Grants Program* for consideration. Due to the timing of referral, the application was not considered in the initial *Community Grants Program* review but has been accepted for review on the basis that: (i) application was made to a formal municipal funding program by the stated application deadline of March 31, 2016, and (ii) the submission is complete.

DISCUSSION

Community Arts & Crafts

1. Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery – Halifax – Project Grant/Exhibition

Opened in 1971, the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery is a public gallery and academic support unit within the educational and research context of Mount Saint Vincent University. The Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery maintains a permanent collection of art works, hosts in-house and travelling exhibitions, conducts art research, produces educational materials, and offers public programming with a focus on youth and young adults. Admission is free. A grant of \$5,300 requested towards hosting the nationally touring exhibition *Walking With Our Sisters* (total budget \$18,510). The exhibition is administered by volunteers of the Walking With Our Sisters National Collective. The project was initiated in 2012 by Metis artist Christi Belcourt with an open call to artists through social media; participants' hand embroidered "vamps", the upper portion of a moccasin intentionally left incomplete to symbolize the unfinished lives of victims. After one year over 1,800 vamps were received. The presentation of this commemorative art installation is entirely crowd-sourced and will tour to locations in Canada and the United States until 2019. The only host venue confirmed in Atlantic Canada is at the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, from January 14 to February 1, 2017. The installation incorporates traditional ceremonial practices and knowledge that transform the act of viewing into a participatory act of commemoration, solidarity and respect. **A project grant of \$5,000 to Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery recommended towards shipping and installation costs in hosting the Walking With Our Sisters art exhibition.**

Note: The *Community Grants Program* does not fund schools or post-secondary educational institutions or projects (Guidebook, p. 31). However, the terms of hosting the *Walking With Our Sisters* exhibition require the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery suspend their authority in "matters museological" and to make it as easy as possible for volunteers from the Walking With Our Sisters National Collective to manage the project both before and during the exhibition. These accommodations include changing hours of access to the gallery, negotiating the inclusion of a smudging practice, and regular meetings with volunteers. In effect, the Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery relinquishes its curatorial role to the volunteers. Although the host has made application to the Municipality for assistance, their role is primarily one of facilitation. Funding is recommended on the basis of the exceptional opportunity afforded the Municipality in being the only host site in the region to receive this important exhibition and the prospect of raising awareness of systemic violence against Aboriginal women in Canada.

¹ The Walking With Our Sisters National Collective is not a federally registered charity or registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks. For details on the project see: <http://walkingwithoursisters.ca>.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Community Grants Program 2016 Budget M311-8004	\$500,000
Less Awards (Approved May 10, 2016)	(\$432,751)
Less Proposed Awards (Referrals: Grants Committee/Council)	(\$24,900)
Balance	\$42,349
Less Proposed Award (Referral: Internal – Mt. St. Vincent University Art Gallery)	(\$5,000)
Balance	\$37,349

RISK CONSIDERATION

November 4, 2013 – Grants Committee has procedures for default prevention and management practices for cash grants, tax relief, community sales and leasing approved by the Audit & Finance Standing Committee at their meeting of November 20, 2013.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, applicant scoring, and previous awards are posted on the Municipality's web site. Printed materials are also available from all Customer Contact Centres and the Corporate Call Centre. Public participation on the Grants Committee is convened through the Office of the Municipal Clerk. Legislation mandates that the general public be informed of any grant or contribution through a notice in a newspaper in circulation throughout the region. The *Community Grants Program* criteria are published annually in a guidebook. Formal reports are posted to the Municipality's web site and a notice publicizing awards is placed in the Municipal Notices section of the Chronicle-Herald newspaper.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Grants Committee could decline acceptance of the internal referral of a funding request from Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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