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Information Item No. 1
Grants Committee
May 4, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Grants Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO

DATE: April 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Community Grants Program: Applications Not Recommend For Funding

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

March 31st, 2015 - Application deadline for submissions to the 2015-2016 *Community Grants Program*. Council has requested that ineligible applicants be notified promptly so as to allow the organization to seek alternate funding sources.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008) s.79 respecting grants and contributions.

BACKGROUND

The HRM *Community Grants Program* awards annual project-specific cash grants to eligible registered non-profit organizations located within the geographic boundary of the Municipality. A recommendation to decline funding is based on relative merit and the program's overall budget capacity. Applications are also received from organizations ineligible for consideration. Reasons for ineligibility includes but are not limited to: not registered 12 months prior to the application deadline, non-profit registration revoked or lapsed, late submission, type of project or expense not funded by the program, incomplete application, debt to Municipality, or no reporting for a prior year's grant.

Eligibility requirements are provided in the program's annual guidebook and in abbreviated form on the application form. A copy of the program's guidebook is posted on-line and staff assistance is available prior to the application deadline of March 31st to organizations considering making a submission.

DISCUSSION

Individual appeals from applicants to the *Community Grants Program* are no longer considered: the practice inadvertently undermined Council's decision-making authority. Therefore, notwithstanding recourse for error, any amendment to a recommended award or to decline funding in the current year's program is upon a motion by the Grants Committee to Regional Council or upon a motion by Regional Council to overturn a committee recommended or to refer an application for further review. A motion to refer for further review requires a rationale or additional information given that the standard review process has already taken into consideration documentation provided in the applicant's formal submission. Applicants to the 2015 program have been advised of this change in procedure in the letter acknowledging receipt of their submission issued by HRM. The letter states: "Please be advised that the decision of Regional Council regarding an award is final unless referred by the Regional Council for further review by the Grants Committee or a committee of Council".

During the initial intake screening 19 applications for total of \$243,590 were deemed ineligible for consideration in this year's program. Past practice has been to present this information to the Grants Committee only and, if accepted, applicants are advised in writing so that they can pursue other funding opportunities in a timely manner. A total of 17 requests totalling \$140,926.11 are not recommended for funding in 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Applications Not Recommended for Funding Listed by Funding Category: 2015 – 2016.
2. Ineligible Applications.

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.

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Original signed

Report Approved by: _____
Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy & Planning, Finance & ICT. 902.490.4493

Applications Not Recommended for Funding in 2015

ENVIRONMENT

Tier 2

1. Sackville Rivers Association

A grant of \$2,250 requested to fund the delivery of a school program. The majority of project expenses are ineligible for consideration (Guidebook, p. 11). Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

Tier 3

2. Hope for Wildlife Society

A grant of \$16,000 requested for excavation for underground holding tanks and the purchase and installation of composting toilets: the project includes in-ground infrastructure (private property is ineligible Guidebook, p.11). Although the cost of excavation appears to be an in-kind contribution the actual cash value cannot be determined due to a sole-sourced quote. The purchase of equipment, including in-ground storage tanks, must be substantiated using competitive quotes or a rationale for sole sourcing provided as noted on the grant application form.

RECREATION & LEISURE

Tier 1

3. Canadian Mental Health Association

A grant of \$2,500 requested for outreach visits to survey clients. Majority of expenditures are ineligible for consideration.

4. Waverley Amateur Athletic Association

A grant of \$4,745.76 requested to fully fund the purchase and installation of a security fence for parking lot, wheelchair ramp for gazebo, concrete benches and picnic tables for McDonald Sports Park, a provincially owned property. Government property ineligible (Guidebook, p.13) and portable enhancements such as furnishings (benches and tables costing \$1,964.46) may exceed HRM standards for a municipal park. Refer applicant to provincial funding sources.

Tier 3

5. Jost Mission Day Care Society

A grant of \$5,000 requested for completion of playground with landscaping and the purchase of a storage shed. Ability to self-fund. The nature of the project (largely aesthetic) not a high priority for *Community Grants Program*.

6. Halifax North West Trails Association

A grant of \$5,000 requested for mapping ("trail alignment") of a proposed trail in the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. Partial contribution from Halifax North West Trails Association, Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society, Maskwa Aquatic Club, and provincial funding confirmed (\$6,000). The quotes for mapping range from ~\$5,000 to \$8,000, as such there appears to be the capacity to self-fund this element of the proposed larger project (other elements include a public meeting, promotion, and a trail concept plan). With the cessation of capital funding for trails under the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness *Recreation Facility Development Grants Program*, issues of property ownership and operational sustainability, it appears premature for HRM to encourage recreational trails development without a detailed analysis of the capital and operating feasibility.

7. Northwoodcare Halifax Incorporated – Halifax – Capital Grant/Building Renovation

A grant of \$25,000 requested towards renovating nursing home/assisted living facility entrance. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Tier 1

8. City Centre Ministry

A grant of \$4,000 requested to fund web site upgrade, self-promotional booklet and orientation/training binders for volunteers to initiate launch of *Street Pastors*, a program developed by the Ascension Trust in England. Although the program appears to be similar to *Citizens on Patrol*, the Municipality does not fund propagation of the Gospel. Grants and Contributions staff to confer with HRM Public Safety office to confirm if integration into crime prevention initiatives supported by HRM Police or the RCMP is an option.

Tier 3

9. ACORN Institute Canada

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) was established in the United States to advocate for lower income families. The national chapter is located in Toronto with board representation from Alberta and BC. A grant of \$5,000 requested for a "safety audit" using a survey of residents of "target neighbourhoods" in Dartmouth North by members of Nova Scotia ACORN. The majority of costs are ineligible for funding and the local chapter is not a registered non-profit. Grants and Contributions staff to confer with HRM Public Safety office to confirm if integration into crime prevention initiatives supported by HRM Police or the RCMP is an option.

AFFORDABLE & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Tier 2

10. Halifax Peninsula Housing Cooperative Limited

A grant of \$13,000 requested for the purchase and installation of new windows in a multi-unit building. Refer to Nova Scotia Housing designated funding program for housing cooperatives and property repairs.

11. Preston Area Housing Fund – North Preston – Capital Grant/Capital Improvements

A grant of \$25,000 requested towards assorted building repairs. Referred to staff for further review of provincial funding eligibility or confirmation of cost-share.

Tier 3

12. Green Stem Housing Cooperative Limited

A grant of \$7,500 requested for building insulation (3 units). Refer to Nova Scotia designated funding program for housing cooperatives and property repairs.

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

Tier 1

13. Halifax Refugee Clinic Association

A grant of \$1,131.35 requested to fully fund the purchase and installation of a building alarm system. The protection of property or confidential client information is not a funding priority for the *Community Grants Program*.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Tier 1

14. Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative Limited

The Bus Stop Theatre incorporated as a registered business in 2010 by the property owner (Walk-Eh? Enterprise Limited, a sole proprietorship). In 2012, a non-profit cooperative was formed, the Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative Limited, which presently operates in collaboration with the property/business owner as the two parties transition in determining the future operations of the venue. As such, the theatre operations are included in the financial accounts of Walk-eh? Enterprise Limited. It is anticipated that the cooperative will enter into a lease agreement with the property owner in 2015 and revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities will be apportioned between the two entities. A grant of \$13,000 requested to purchase assorted lighting equipment (\$13,850). Funding not recommended until the cooperative has the capacity to produce its own financial statements, the duration of the lease agreement is confirmed, and

the nature of any revenues derived from operations retained by the business. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant submissions.

15. Voices Black Theatre Ensemble Society

A grant of \$5,000 requested towards assorted production costs, promotion, travel and refreshments, and receptions for a tour of *Once: Africville Stories* to selected schools (Halifax, Dartmouth, Windsor) and the Black Cultural Centre and Marigold Centre located in Truro. Incomplete: insufficient documentation to substantiate costs and the feasibility of the project appears to depend upon provincial funding to be determined in September, 2015. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

Tier 2

16. Onelight Theatre

A grant of \$3,500 requested for purchase of a digital video camera and accessories costing \$3,795.42. Appears to be an ability to self-fund or phase purchases.

Tier 3

17. Shakespeare by the Sea Society

A grant of \$3,299 requested to fully fund the purchase of 100 folding chairs (rented to audience for \$2). Prior municipal grant for folding chairs. Appears to be an ability to self-fund or phase purchases as financial capacity permits.

Community Grants Program - Ineligible Applications

ENVIRONMENT

Tier 1

18. Oceans and Coastal Education Awareness Network Society

A grant of \$3,000 requested to fund "youth training sessions": a majority of expenses are ineligible for consideration. The society has not been registered 12 months and is ineligible (Guidebook, p.2). Potential community art element: refer to staff for assistance with future grant submission.

RECREATION & LEISURE

Tier 1

19. Meagher's Grant Volunteer Fire Department – Meagher's Grant – Capital Grant/Assorted

A grant of \$20,500 requested towards the cost of insulating the fire hall ceiling and other items (power point projector, screen, lap top, gravel, recycling stations, snow blower, lawn mower, BBQ, "accessories, and supplies"). Although originally incorporated in 1990 the society's non-profit registration lapsed until reactivated March 13, 2015, in relation to ownership of the property that serves as a fire station and hall. Does not meet the program's registration requirement of 12 months (Guidebook, p.2). Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

20. Cheema Aquatic Club

A grant of \$1,500 requested for materials for construction of a replacement floating dock. Financial reporting indicates an ability to self-fund. Application incomplete: no quotes.

21. Halliburton Highbury Homeowners Association

A grant of \$10,000 requested towards the purchase of playground equipment and site preparation (paved pathway) located on land owned by the Municipality.

22. We Will Win Youth Association

A grant of \$25,000 for assorted uniforms, wages, travel and accommodations, equipment (unspecified), and "communications". Majority of expenses are ineligible for consideration and application incomplete. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

Tier 2

23. Deanery Project Cooperative Limited

A grant of \$16,000 requested for washroom renovations and electrical upgrades. Applicant is in default of reporting requirement for 2014 grant in the amount of \$5,000 for building insulation.

AFFORDABLE & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Tier 2

24. Hospice Society of Greater Halifax

A grant of \$5,000 requested to purchase database software and professional fees. Application incomplete. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Tier 1

25. Lucasville United Baptist Church

A grant of \$25,000 requested for assorted repairs to church roof, flooring, replacement door, and exterior shingles. Ineligible project: the building is not a registered heritage property. No Memorandum of Understanding with municipal EMO/Fire & Emergency Services (Guidebook p. 19).

Tier 3

26. Community Care Network Society

A grant of \$25,000 requested towards expansion of building used for trades training facility (\$68,000). No rationale provided for sole-source quote. Balance of funding unconfirmed. The *Community Grants Program* does not fund employment-related/training and accreditation sector.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

Tier 1

27. Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society

A grant of \$5,000 requested to fully fund the production of a portable “electric kiosk” at the Black Cultural Centre, Cherry Brook. Sole-sourced quote. Meeting with applicant and host venue recommended.

Tier 2

28. St. Patrick’s Church Restoration Society

A capital grant of \$25,000 requested towards restoration of St. Patrick’s Church. A capital campaign feasibility study is in progress and, as stated by the applicant, without adequate support for a successful Capital Campaign, the project may not proceed as envisaged or may cease. Application incomplete (no itemized expenses or quotes) and unconfirmed source of non-municipal funding. Refer applicant to 2016 *Community Grants Program*.

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

Tier 1

29. Afghan Cultural Society

Incorporated as a non-profit society in 2013, the organization aims to support members of the Afghani community. A \$25,000 grant requested towards assorted activities, the purchase of equipment and supplies for events and instructional workshops, and instructor’s wage. Application incomplete and the majority of expenses/projects are ineligible for consideration. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

30. St. Gabriel Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Halifax: Branch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church of Canada

Incorporated as a non-profit society in 2009, serves immigrants from Ethiopia and the preservation of Ethiopian culture and religion. A grant of \$10,000 requested for operational expenses and children’s recreational activities. Application incomplete and majority of costs ineligible for funding. Refer to staff for assistance with future grant applications.

Tier 3

31. reachability Association

Incorporated as a non-profit society and registered Canadian charity the Association serving persons with a disability. The Association is sustained by government grants and donations. A grant of \$5,000 requested for an inaugural film festival featuring films that portray disability culture. The Community Grants Program does not fund events. Refer to *HRM Festivals and Events Grants Program* for assistance in developing a grant submission for future consideration.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Tier 1

32. Villains Theatre

A grant of \$2,500 requested towards production of the play *Arden* in the Keith’s Brewery, Halifax. Refer to project category of *HRM Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*.

Tier 3

33. Bridge Centre for Arts & Technology

A grant of \$14,955 requested for the purchase of specialized equipment and furnishings totalling \$22,455. Applicants’ cost-share of \$7,500 confirmed. Ineligible due to debt to the Municipality.

34. Sierra Club Canada Foundation: Atlantic Canada Chapter

A grant of \$5,000 requested for a 9-month music and art contest to increase awareness of Halifax Harbour's environmental sustainability. Insufficient detail provided to fully assess the potential impact of the project and art competitions ineligible for funding (Guidebook, p. 31).

35. Society for Art Presentation

A grant of \$5,000 requested towards the purchase of a sound system. Applicant is in default of reporting requirement for 2014 grant in the amount of \$6,000 for the purchase of equipment.

36. Symphony Nova Scotia Society

A capital grant of \$15,135 requested towards replacement costumes for *The Nutcracker* a co-production of Symphony Nova Scotia, Mermaid Theatre (Windsor, NS), and Halifax Dance. Applicant is in default of reporting requirement for 2014 grant in the amount of \$10,000 for furnishings.