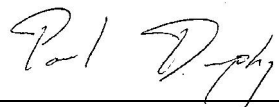


HRM Grants Committee
May 2, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY: 
Paul Dunphy, Director Community Development

DATE: April 4, 2011

SUBJECT: HRM Community Grants Program 2011-2012: Ineligible Applications

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates with a request from Regional Council that staff communicate to certain applicants their ineligibility for consideration under the *HRM Community Grants Program*. Prompt notification allows the applicant to seek alternate funding sources or submit an appeal.

BACKGROUND

The HRM Community Grants Program awards annual project-specific grants to registered non-profit organizations located within the geographic boundary of HRM. Each year the program receives submissions that are not eligible for various reasons, such but not limited to: not a registered non-profit for 12 months prior to the application deadline of March 31, late applications, type of project or expense not funded by the program, incomplete application, debt to HRM, or no reporting for a prior year's grant.

DISCUSSION

A total of sixteen (16) applications totalling \$181,680.25 have been deemed ineligible by staff for further consideration in this year's review process. Once the HRM Grants Committee have been notified through an Information Report, ineligible applicants are notified as soon as possible so that they can pursue other funding opportunities. Appeals are only considered on the basis of new information unavailable to the applicant or reviewer at the time of submission, or an error in fact or procedure during the review process (Guidebook, p. 35). Any application received after the deadline, or not post-marked March 31st are considered ineligible.

Applicants Deemed Ineligible 2011-2012

1.Boys & Girls Club of Spryfield – Recreation & Leisure

A grant of \$5,000 requested towards operating an after school program. The *Community Grants Program* does not fund recurring core operating costs (salaries and wages, telephone, travel, meals, office supplies etc). Referred to HRM Community Recreation.

2.Connections Cole Harbour – Recreation & Leisure

A capital grant in the amount of \$25,000 requested for preparation of "...a pre-acquisition proposal" for the former Gordon Bell school building for \$1 or a lease for \$1/year. HRM intends to offer an open Request for Proposals in April, 2011, a grant could be perceived preferential consideration relative to other proponents, including other non-profit groups. In all probability, the timing of any award would be after the RFP closing deadline. The submission is also incomplete (no financial or competing quotes for professional fees). The group registered May 11th, 2010, and fails to meet the program's registration criteria.

3.Harold T Barrett Junior High School – Recreation & Leisure

A capital grant in the amount of \$25,000 requested for construction of a paved multi-sport pad. School property is ineligible (Guidebook, p. 13). Referred to HRM Parks staff.

4.Hubbards Yacht Club – Recreation & Leisure

A capital grant in the amount of \$25,000 requested for the purchase of a sail boat, sails, and trailer. The applicant is delinquent in reporting for a capital grant (\$3,600) issued in 2009 and was also declined in 2010.

5.Ketch Harbour Area Residents Association – Recreation & Leisure

A grant of \$12,200 requested for wharf repairs. The applicant is delinquent in reporting for a capital grant (\$7,000) issued in 2005. Registry of Joint Stocks registration is in default as of 2009.

6.Habitat for Humanity – Affordable Housing & Shelters

A capital grant of \$25,000 requested towards the construction of two residential properties. The applicant is ineligible because title will be conveyed to a private party albeit the mortgage is secured via Habitat for Humanity. Private property is ineligible (Guidebook, p. 16). Program

staff will request a meeting to review municipal assistance options, including the *Residential Property Tax Exemption Program* for lower income households.

7. St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia - Affordable Housing & Shelters

A capital grant of \$3,651.25 requested for property repairs. The applicant also submitted a second request for a \$25,000 capital grant towards construction of a new apartment building. Organizations can only submit one application per year. The applicant was notified and the application for property repairs was withdrawn.

8. North Preston Senior Citizens Club – Community Diversity

A grant of \$5,000 requested for production of material regarding the club's history. The application is incomplete. Referred to HRM Volunteer Development staff to assist the group develop a proposal for next year's program.

9. Mulgrave Park Baptist Church – Community Diversity

A grant of \$4,500 for creative writing and video workshops. The submission originates with a for-profit film/video production company "...for which Mulgrave Park Baptist Church has agreed to be the charitable applicant". A for-profit venture is ineligible (See: Interpretation Bulletin #5. Non-Profit Registration Requirements). Only workshops with a demonstrated organizational or sectoral impact may be considered; excludes individual skill or employment development (See: Interpretation Bulletin #4. Educational and Instructional Workshops).

10. Prismatic Arts Society – Arts & Crafts

A request for \$5,000 to purchase computer equipment and web site design. The "Prismatic" event was developed by the Onelight Theatre Society who also applied to this year's program for a grant. In January, 2011, Onelight Theatre incorporated Prismatic as a non-profit society. The new organization fails to meet the program registration criteria (12 months prior to application deadline) and does not have a separate bank account. Presently, the Board of Directors is identical for both organizations. The program does not fund events. Referred to HRM Events staff.

11. Strategic Arts Management Society – Arts & Crafts

A grant in the amount of \$5,000 for marketing "Nova Scotia Cultural Days". The program does not fund events. Referred to HRM Events staff.

12.2b Theatre Company – Arts & Crafts

A grant of \$4,949 to market touring productions to national and international presenters. The application is late.

13. Eastern Front Theatre Society – Arts & Crafts

A request for \$5,000 to purchase a projector. In 2010, the society received a grant of \$5,000 towards a professional marketing campaign. The final report shows actual expenses of \$2,080.90 leaving a balance of \$2,919.10 which has been pre-paid for newspaper advertising in 2011. Staff/HRM Grants Committee consider the project incomplete; funds may be carried forward to 2011 but eligibility criteria do not permit more than one application in a fiscal year.

14. Open Concept Productions Association – Arts & Crafts

A grant of \$3,008 requested for facility rental. The group registered May 28, 2010, and fails to meet the program's registration criteria.

15. Old Burying Grounds Foundation – Community History

A grant of \$1,000 requested towards grave marker restoration. In 2009, the Foundation received a capital grant of \$10,000 and \$15,000 in 2010. The latter award was conditional: HRM's combined contribution to the restoration of grave markers project not to exceed \$25,000.

16. Caledonia Homeowners Association – Neighbourhood Safety

A capital grant of \$27,372 requested for paving a private parking lot for membership-based homeowners association. The program does not fund acquisition, maintenance, or upgrades to private property.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None. This is an information report only.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

April 4th, 2011 – HRM Grants Committee adjudication of eligibility for cases where, in the opinion of staff, interpretation of policy might warrant further clarification of the program's intent.

Applicants deemed ineligible have two weeks as of date of notification (the deadline is stated in the letter of decline) to make a formal, written appeal as per the approved program policy. These appeals are then considered with any appeals arising after recommended awards have been approved by Regional Council (eg. not recommended for funding, value or conditions of an award).

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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HRM Community Development
