

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 5, 2005

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair
Mr. Shawn Lahey, Vice Chair
Mr. Wilf McEachern
Mr. Larry Guphill
Mr. David Khokar
Councillor Hendsbee
Ms. Sylvia Parris

ABSENT: Juan Carlos Canales-Leyton (regrets)
Ms. Susanne Wise (regrets)
Ms. May Lui (regrets)
Councillor Debbie Hum (regrets)
Ms. Gail Wilson
Mr. Thomas Rissesco

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Holly Richardson, HRM Recreation, Tourism and Culture

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:56 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall without a quorum present.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 HRM Cultural Plan

The Chair introduced Ms. Holly Richardson, Community Developer, HRM Recreation, Tourism and Culture.

Ms. Richardson addressed the Committee and gave an overview of the process involved with the development of an HRM Cultural Plan. In her remarks, she advised that two or three years ago, the idea of a cultural policy was started as a smaller initiative, however, recently it has become apparent that a broader cultural plan is required, and needs to address more than the arts and heritage. She explained that this past February, Council approved terms of reference for establishing the Cultural Advisory Committee. She briefly reviewed the role of the Committee, the key objectives, and pointed out that they expect to present a policy direction to Council this September. With regard to the Committee composition, she pointed out that they are trying to seek a diverse range of people to sit on the Committee, and in terms of involving the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee, there may be an opportunity to have a member sit on the Cultural Advisory Committee. Ms. Richardson advised that if this does not happen, she would like to come back and provide updates as a way of keeping the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee involved in the process.

The Chair thanked Ms. Richardson for her presentation. Ms. Richardson responded to questions and engaged in a discussion with Committee member concerning the Cultural Advisory Committee's work plan.

At 6:10 p.m. Mr. Khokar retired from the meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Richardson advised that her research has found that, across Canada, many municipalities have established cultural advisory committees. She indicated that she could provide this information to the Committee by CD. She noted that Australia and the United Kingdom also have interesting plans as well.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that when this issue came before Council, he raised a concern that there may be some crossover between the Cultural Advisory Committee and the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee. He pointed out that once the Cultural Advisory Committee has a draft policy prepared, it should be brought before the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee for its input, prior to going to Council.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -April 7, 2005

Deferred to next meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

None.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

4.1 Review of Community & Race Relations Policy

Deferred to next meeting.

4.2 Future Work Plans

Deferred to next meeting.

4.3 Committee Members Biography on the Web

Deferred to next meeting.

6. ADDED ITEMS

None

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - June 2, 2005

The following members advised they will not be able to attend the June meeting:

S Larry Guptill

S Councillor David Hendsbee

S Sylvia Parris

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant