

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES October 5, 2006

PRESENT: Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair
Ms. Nicole Briand
Mr. David Khokhar
Mr. Inder Bhatia
Ms. Sylvia Parris
Ms. Alexandra McCallum
Ms. Kristel Vom Scheidt
Ms. May Lui, Vice Chair
Ms. Tamara Krawchenko

ABSENT: Ms. Betty Josey
Mr. Thomas Rissesco
Ms. Shelly Fashan
Councillor Snow
Councillor Hum

STAFF: Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 7, 2006

The minutes of August 3, 2006 were added to the agenda.

MOVED BY Ms. Alexandra McCallum, seconded by Ms. Tamara Krawchenko that the minutes of August 3, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED BY Mr. David Khokhar, seconded by Mr. Inder Bhatia that the notes of September 7, 2006 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additon:

Approval of the minutes of August 3, 2006 were added to the agenda during the approval of the minutes.

Move: Item 6.1 to the first order of business

MOVED BY Ms. Sylvia Parris, seconded by Ms. Tamara Krawchenko that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee introduced themselves to the presenters.

6.1 Presentation by HRM and the YMCA re: Mainland Common Community Centre

- A copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled Sharing Our Vision for a Mainland Community Center was before the Committee.

Ms. Margaret Soley, Manager, Facility Development, HRM, Mr. Terry Gallagher, Co-ordinator Capital Projects, Buildings, HRM and Ms. Betty Watson Borg - YMCA provided an overview of the Mainland Common Community Center. A copy of the presentation is on file. During the presentation the following was noted:

- The Community Center is a joint project with the YMCA of Greater Halifax Dartmouth and HRM;
- The mandate of the HRM and the YMCA philosophies are in line with the same goals as the Committee in terms of inclusion and diversity;
- Proposed spaces include, aquatics, health and fitness, indoor track, gymnasium; multipurpose rooms; café;
- The design of the building will incorporate features of best practices such as natural

- lighting, energy efficiency, security, and accessibility;
- The facility will be approximately 50,000-60,000 square feet
- The budget is \$14.5 million;
- \$6.2 million has been contributed by the Canada NS Infrastructure Program and HRM;
- The YMCA has contributed \$3 million; the additional funds will come from fundraising;
- This is the largest amount of funding spent on a capital project building for the community by HRM;
- There will be a variety of programs such as daycares, swimming, lunch and learns, english conversation classes, meeting rooms, teen drop in etc;
- There will be a member advisory committee to oversee the operations of the center;
- A holistic approach to programs and services will be taken;
- The Center will be open seven days a week 5:30 a.m. -10:00 p.m.

The Committee offered the following suggestions to the presenters:

- Climbing wall;
- Group membership;
- Homes for community groups;
- Learning English through cooking program;
- Ensure that the employees and volunteers reflect the community in terms of diversity;
- That the design and space showcase the diversity of the community;
- That a youth focus group be conducted;

Responding to questions of the Committee the presenters responded as follows:

- They are working out the options and fees for programming and payments;
- Discussions are ongoing with traffic services regarding public access to the site;
- They will be working in partnership with the school board to ensure programs work with the schools' schedules;
- The YMCA currently has a host program;
- Council approved the partnership, funding and the concept;
- The YMCA currently provides ongoing diversity and inclusion for staff. However, it is hard to manage the general public;
- The YMCA does have a financial assistance policy. Those funds are generally raised by the community;

In the presenters concluding remarks they advised that they intend to break ground in 2007 and open the center in 2009. Further, that members of the committee can contact them individually or obtain additional information from the HRM website at www.Halifax.ca/mainlandcommon or the YMCA site at www.ymcahrm.ns.ca.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their presentation.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

4.1 Canadian Commission for UNESCO re: Canadian Coalition Against Racism Council report

MOVED BY Ms. Alexandra McCallum and seconded by Ms. Kristel Vom Scheidt that the matter be deferred to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 CRRAC Work Plan

The Chair stated that it was time for the Committee to move forward with the work plan and suggested that the subcommittees be formed to deal with the priorities.

A discussion ensued and the following was noted:

- The Chair requested that the members bring the work plan to each meeting;
- The Chair advised that she made a presentation to Regional Council on October 3, 2006 and extended an invitation to the Councillors to sit in on the Committees meetings.
- The Committee will make a yearly presentation to Council.
- The Chair made a presentation during HRMS Diversity Week Festivities.
- Priority three has been assigned to Ms. Vom Scheidt and Ms. McCallum
- Ms. Krawchenko will provide labour market data.
- In reference to Priority 2, Ms. McCallum will bring a list of diversity communities to the next meeting.

The Chair advised that at the next meeting the Committee will discuss the content of HRM's Newsletter article and the brochure.

4.3 Community and Race Relations Appointment to the Cultural Advisory Committee

MOVED BY Ms. McCallum, seconded by Mr. David Khakhar that May Lai represents the Community and Race Relations Committee on the Cultural Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. NEW BUSINESS

At this time the following was noted:

Ms. May Lii advised that she was invited to attend a Memorial Ceremony for Samuel Cunard on Saturday.

Ms. Vom Scheidt retired from the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

A discussion ensued and Mr. David Khokhar inquired as to the status of his letter to the School Board.

Ms. Parris advised that she will review the material, noting that the individual school boards and the Department of Education accept recommendations for resources for use in the schools. The Department of Education conducts a review of the materials to ensure that it is quality material, fits into the curriculum, meets the schools needs and a good use of teacher time.

The Chair requested that the Community and Race Relations Committee be provided with the HRM Diversity Week Pins.

The Chair requested that business cards be provided to the new members.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Presentation by HRM and the YMCA re: Mainland Common Community Centre

See page 3.

7. ADDED ITEMS

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - November 2, 2006

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant