

**REGIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 17, 2008

PRESENT: Ms. Mhari Lamarque, Chair
Mr. Callum Dunphy, Vice-Chair
Mayor Peter Kelly
Ms. Jacqueline Wigle
Ms. Tina Babineau
Ms. Judy Makmillen
Mr. Ryan Dodge
Mr. Lucian Mustain
Ms. Rachel Eisner
Mr. Andrew Pumphery

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McClusky
Councillor Linda Mosher
Ms. Shannen Lumsden
Mr. Kevin Hazelhurst
Mr. Ben Murray

STAFF: Mr. Lee Moore, Community Developer
Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Relations,
Community Development
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. at the Citadel Centre, Citadel High, Halifax.

The Chair presented Mayor Kelly with a Regional Youth hoodie and thanked him for his support of the Committee.

2. COMMUNITY UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Babineau stated that she had participated in the Halifax Model United Nations the previous week and that it had been a success. She advised that Geoff Regan, MP of Halifax West, along with several other ministers were present and that the event was quite fun. Ms. Babineau also noted that she had met with her student executive council at J.L. Ilsley High School and introduced them to the Regional Youth Advisory Committee. They expressed interest in having the Committee present to the full student council. She advised that the leadership team at J.L. Ilsley High School, who do volunteer work, were also interested in the Committee. In closing, Ms. Babineau indicated that her high school would also be holding it's second coffee house in support of Amnesty International on March 27, 2008 at 7 p.m. and that admission was free, however, donations were welcome.

Ms. Makmillen indicated that she had attended an all ages district campfire and that it was a big coming together for the girls in her area. She also noted that she had attended the HRM website committee meeting on March 5, 2008 and that Earth Hour would be taking place on March 29, 2008 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Eisener indicated that she had hosted a community based coffee house and that Mind Shift had completed it's first public performance. She also advised that her school's performance of Fiddler on the Roof would be taking place from April 2 to 5, 2008 and also that Beaver Bank Idol would soon be holding auditions.

Mr. Dodge advised that he had been speaking to Ms. Beth Wood, a resident in his district, and that she was attempting to organize a youth action team. He stated that Ms. Wood was interested in doing a study on how to get youth in the area to become more organized and leadership oriented.

Ms. Wigle indicated that the Cole Harbour Harvest Festival Planning Committee had held a meeting on February 22, 2008 and that they had discussed entertainment and games for the upcoming event which will take place on September 13, 2008. Ms. Wigle also

advised that there had been a Youth Leadership Conference on February 23, 2008 and that several girls from her school had attended.

Mr. Mustain indicated that on March 28, 2008 there would be a meeting regarding the development of a coastal community at Saint Luke's Church in Saint Margaret's Bay.

Ms. Lamarque indicated that she was a member of STAND, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, at Citadel High and that there was also a group at Halifax West High School. She noted that the schools were attempting to organize a walk from the Halifax Shopping Centre to Grand Parade to represent how far people in Darfur have to walk for water. Ms. Lamarque also stated that her friend's band, Children of Eve, would be playing at the Pavilion on March 28, 2008.

Mr. Dunphy advised that he was considering organizing a group regarding Tibet. He stated that the group would raise awareness that, historically, Tibet was ethnically part of China. He also noted that China had aided in improving Tibet and had also helped religiously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 18, 2008

Corrections:

Ms. Eisener's last name had been spelled incorrectly.
The Mainland Common is not affiliated with Ms. Makmillen's school.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Mr. Dodge, that the minutes of February 18, 2008, as corrected, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

9.1 National Youth Week - Mr. Lee Moore

MOVED BY Mr. Mustain , seconded by Ms. Wigle that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Meeting Location

As the May meeting of the Regional Youth Advisory Committee falls on the Victoria Day holiday members discussed an alternate date.

MOVED BY MS. EISENER, seconded by Mr. Dodge, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee hold a meeting on May 12, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Lee Moore, Community Developer, asked the members to consider when they would like their Committee term to end.

5.2 Sub - Committees

It was noted that each sub-committee would give a short update to the Regional Youth Advisory Committee at the April 21, 2008 meeting and would, therefore, be required to meet before this date.

Youth Events & Website

Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Murray, Mr. Dodge and Ms. Makmillen were serving on this sub-committee. He noted that they had held a meeting on March 5, 2008 but attendance had been low due to bad weather. For their next meeting, Mr. Moore asked the sub-committee members to think of what projects they would like to work on and to chose one (1) to begin with.

Ms. Eisener proposed planning an event for the end of the school year to involve HRM youth.

Recreation Program and Services/ Facility Development

It was noted that this sub-committee would work with recreation programs and youth to develop programs for both inner city and rural areas.

Ms. Wigle will also serve on this sub-committee.

Mayor Kelly informed the Committee of the Community Facility Master Plan workshops that were currently taking place throughout HRM on this very topic.

Mr. Pumphery entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Makmillen proposed that the sub-committee may want to look into more age range oriented activities as there was an age gap.

Ms. Eisener noted that she had found the city wide events calender list in the agenda package very useful and that she would like it to be accessible to all youth on the HRM youth website.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Ms. Makmillen, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee request from staff to have a monthly updated list of youth activities throughout HRM in chronological order from recreation centres that will be made available and accessible for all youth in HRM. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair suggested that a further evaluation be completed on HRM youth events regarding how much money was being spent and including a success rate chart.

Mr. Andrew Whittmore, Manager, Community Relations, Community Development, also noted that staff should be polling youth regarding these events.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Ms. Babineau, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee request that a debrief be completed on HRM youth events. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Regarding confidentiality issues, it was noted that any information that comes to the Regional Youth Advisory Committee was public knowledge.

Transportation

C An example of a Youth Discount Card was submitted.

It was noted that Ms. Eisener and Ms. Babineau would also serve on this sub-committee.

Mr. Dodge stated that the Transportation sub-committee would take suggestions on bus routes and possible alternative modes of transportation and relay them back to the Regional Youth Advisory Committee and Regional Council.

Mayor Kelly advised that Nova Scotia was receiving fifteen million (15,000,000) dollars from the federal government to put towards previously approved transportation programs. He noted that if the Committee wanted to pass a motion regarding rural transportation for youth they would have to pass it soon as Regional Council was holding their budget deliberations in April. Mayor Kelly also indicated that Metro Transit changed their routes twice a year and advised the sub-committee to keep those dates in mind regarding transportation.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Mr. Dodge that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Request a staff report on the possibility of allocating funds from the Transit trust fund for improving suburban and rural transportation should they become available in the upcoming budget; and**
- 2. Request Metro Transit consider changing the age limit of the Metro Transit Child's ticket from fifteen (15) to eighteen (18) years old; and**
- 3. Request a staff report on the implementation of an HRM youth discount pass.**

A discussion ensued regarding the motion. The following points were noted:

- C The age limit on a Metro Transit Child pass is fifteen (15) years old and after that youth must purchase adult tickets;
- C School board student bus tickets limit both the age and time when youth are able to access Metro Transit busses.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Makmillen noted that Halifax could be more bike friendly and that bicycling was an efficient mode of transportation. She also stated that many people may be intimidated of driving their bikes with traffic on the main roads and that there were not many places to practice beforehand.

Mayor Kelly advised the members of the Bikeways Advisory Committee.

Ms. Eisener noted that the Transportation sub-committee could also discuss active transportation.

The Chair noted that an extra couple of feet on roads would be helpful for both bikes and skateboards.

Youth Grants

Mr. Moore indicated that Youth Grants was part of the Committees mandate and that he would provide further information.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Ms. Babineau, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee request a staff report on youth grants; including their availability. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was noted that Ms. Lamarque, Ms. Babineau, Mr. Dodge and Mr. Dunphy would serve on this sub-committee.

Art and Culture

It was noted that Mr. Dodge would also be on this sub-committee

The Committee would like this sub-committee to tackle the issue of youth friendly concerts. They noted that while there was only one all ages club; there were many other venues throughout HRM to explore. They also stated that asking performers to do two (2) shows, one adult and one all ages, may be an option.

Ms. Babineau suggested that the sub-committee work with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. The Chair noted that she had a contact there, Ms. Dale Sheppard, and that she was very open to involving people in the arts.

Ms. Babineau also noted that she had been involved in the Spoken Word Festival at Dartmouth High School at which local artists had worked with students. She stated that it was fun and that it was a good opportunity for schools without a lot of funding to participate in the arts. She would like the sub-committee to discuss alternative forms of art such as this.

Mr. Whittemore advised the Committee that he was also the Manager for Cultural Affairs and that their mandate centered around community art which Ms. Kate MacLennan was responsible for. He stated that these arts programs could certainly be influenced by youth.

School Outreach

Ms. Babineau stated that this sub-committee would consist of all Regional Youth Advisory Committee members liaising with student governments and work groups such as teen health centres in their districts as these groups wanted to know more about the Committee.

Mayor Kelly suggested sending student councils a copy of the Committee's minutes each month to keep them updated.

The Chair saw this as an opportunity to inform these groups of what opportunities and resources were available to them.

Ms. Eisener proposed that each Committee member be responsible for approximately five (5) schools in their district. Mr. Moore advised that he would help prepare a list of schools in each district to better facilitate this idea.

When the list has been generated more discussion will take place regarding whether Committee members will liaise with only high schools as the Committee also consists of junior high school students. This will be a work in progress for the time being.

Mayor Kelly suggested that Committee members also liaise with their principals and that they speak to Mr. Howard Windsor, Chair of the School Board.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

7.2 PETITIONS - NONE

7.3 DELEGATIONS

7.3.1 Opportunity Wall for Cole Harbour Area - Ms. Kate MacLennan

Ms. Kate MacLennan, Arts Facilitator, and Mr. Adam Reiss provided the presentation. The following highlights were noted:

- C Illegal graffiti may be harmful because it causes damage to people's property. There is a difference between graffiti and vandalism;
- C An alternative, legal graffiti site is required to make the public aware that it is a respected art form throughout the world;
- C The artwork on the current graffiti wall in the Halifax Commons does not last very long as people from all across HRM come to paint on it;
- C Legal graffiti walls are being implemented in areas all across Canada; for example, in Gatineau they have created moveable walls;
- C One of the most famous legal graffiti walls is in Venice Beach, California;
- C Picasso painted on a graffiti wall in Spain;
- C There are no graffiti walls in walking distance of the majority of youth living in Cole Harbour;
- C Many sites in Cole Harbour have been tagged and it looks terrible;
- C Seventy (70) percent of youth are located in the Dartmouth Cole Harbour area and only thirty (30) percent are in the downtown Halifax area where the only graffiti wall in HRM is located;
- C Many major companies use graffiti to sell products to consumers;
- C Suggestions of legal areas for youth to paint were skateboard parks and on the moveable walls at construction sites;
- C Artists travel all over the world to attend graffiti festivals;

C Legal art projects for bus shelters was suggested.

A discussion ensued with Ms. MacLennan and Mr. Reiss responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C In Spryfield, graffiti art was painted on old sails. They are good to paint on and also a reusable resource;
- C The painted electrical boxes throughout HRM were paid for by the phone companies;
- C It was suggested that moveable walls be put up at concerts to display youth art and as a contest. Graffiti artists often participate in contests where they are asked to paint a word.

MOVED BY Ms. Eisener, seconded by Mr. Pumphery, that the Regional Youth Advisory Committee request that HRM staff liaise with staff at Cole Harbour place regarding an opportunity for a graffiti wall site at Cole Harbour Place as a pilot project as per the Graffiti Management Plan.

A discussion ensued on the motion. The following points were noted:

- C Mr. Whittemore wrote the Graffiti Management plan. This will be made available to the Committee;
- C Regarding the use of plywood from construction sites, marine plywood can last a long time as it is protected with varathane;
- C A pilot project will be necessary to ensure that bleeding out of graffiti does not occur in the community;
- C Transparent transit shelters cannot be painted on as it is a safety precaution. Metro Transit would have to be contacted regarding the painting of solid shelters;
- C It was suggested that an event be held for artists to display how to graffiti properly;
- C Concerns were raised over the use of aerosol spray paint to create graffiti art. CFC's can get into the air as five (5) or six (6) cans may be used for one (1) mural;
- C There is a spray paint called, Plutonium G, which is manufactured in the United States that allows artists to paint without masks. It has just started being sold in Toronto and is also available for retailer's to purchase a rack;
- C The code in graffiti is that you will paint over another artist's work if you can do an equal or better job.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. REPORTS - NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 National Youth Week

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2008.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant