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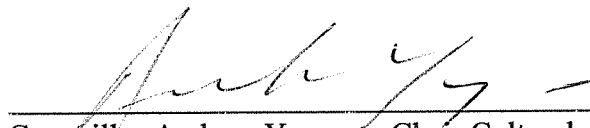


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Halifax Regional Council
February 13th, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair Cultural Advisory Committee

DATE: January 28th, 2007

SUBJECT: Cultural Capitals of Canada: 2010 application initiation

ORIGIN

March 28, 2006 Regional Council approves HRM Cultural Plan which includes policy direction to seek the Cultural Capital of Canada Designation

January 3rd, 2007 HRM Cultural Advisory Committee passes a motion to request Regional Council's approval to develop a proposal and application for the 2010 Cultural Capitals of Canada designation

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve the recommendation of the HRM Cultural Advisory Committee to initiate the application process for the Canadian Heritage 2010 Cultural Capitals of Canada Designation.

BACKGROUND

The HRM Cultural Plan was approved by Council in March 2006. The Plan establishes Policy support for HRM to seek the Cultural Capital of Canada designation through Canadian Heritage. The next opportunity for being awarded this designation is 2010. The deadline for submitting the application package is October 15th, 2007.

DISCUSSION

If HRM were awarded the Cultural Capital designation in 2010 a number of investment synergies would be aligned including the potential 2011 Canada Games, and 2014 Commonwealth Games. The award also presents a significant opportunity to leverage up to \$2 million dollars in federal funding to invest directly into Culture. This poses a timely and strategic opportunity to enhance HRM's overall investment in the ongoing implementation of the Cultural Plan.

The Cultural Advisory Committee recommends to council, that in order to fulfill one of the strategic goals of the HRM Cultural Plan, that the CAC begin work on exploring a possible bid for the 2010 Cultural Capitals proposal. If endorsed by council, it is the intent of the CAC to work with cultural organizations in HRM to examine the feasibility and cost of a bid by HRM. The CAC would then return to council at a later date with either a bid and budget proposal or a recommendation that the bid not proceed at this time.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the initiation of the Cultural Capitals of Canada application process. Should the Cultural Advisory Committee move forward with the development of a proposal for 2010 a program implementation budget will be brought forward to Council for consideration and approval.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose to not develop a proposal for the 2010 Cultural Capitals of Canada designation

Council could choose to consider development of a Cultural Capitals of Canada Proposal for 2011 or a future year

ATTACHMENTS