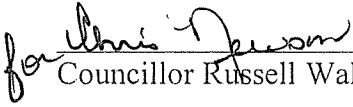


Halifax Regional Council
August 11, 2009

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of the Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Councillor Russell Walker, Chair, HRM Grants Committee

DATE: August 6, 2009

SUBJECT: HRM Community Grants Program 2009-2010 - Appeals

ORIGIN

Grants Committee meeting of August 5th, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the HRM Community Grants Program appeals as detailed in the discussion section of the report dated July 5, 2009 for a total of 8 grants with a combined total value of \$38,770 from operating account M311-8004.

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee discussed the matter at their August 5th, 2009 meetings. An amendment was made to increase the award to the Ecology Action Centre's Bike Again program by \$250 for a total award of \$1,250.00 to recognize efforts in encouraging opportunity for alternative means of transportation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As per the attached staff report dated July 5, 2009 with the following correction: the balance was \$1,169 which has been further reduced by \$250 due to the increase of \$250 to the Ecology Action Centre's Bike Again program for a current balance of \$919.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

As per the attached Staff Report dated July 5, 2009

ALTERNATIVES

As per the attached Staff Report dated July 5, 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Staff Report dated July 5, 2009.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210 or Fax 490-4208

Report Prepared By: Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

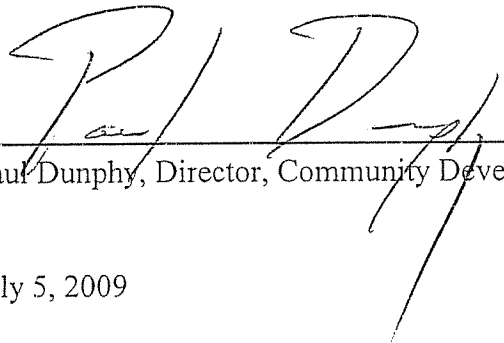


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

HRM Grants Committee
August 5, 2009

TO: Chair and Members HRM Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY:



Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: July 5, 2009

SUBJECT: HRM Community Grants Program 2009-2010 - Appeals

ORIGIN

Staff report to HRM Grants Committee dated May 28, 2009, listed 69 awards and 19 not recommended for funding in 2009-2010. Funding requests were approved by Regional Council on June 16, 2009. This report addresses eight (8) appeals. The program is now closed for 2009-2010.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the HRM Grants Committee approve the *HRM Community Grants Program* appeals as detailed in the discussion section of this report for a total of 8 grants with a combined total value of \$38,520 from operating account M311-8004.

BACKGROUND

The 2009-2010 *Community Grants Program* received 103 on-time applications for a combined total of \$1,355,762.79. Fifteen (15) were deemed ineligible. Sixty-nine (69) awards were approved for a total of \$464,011 and 19 applications were not recommended for funding. Applicants have two weeks from date of notification should they wish to appeal ineligibility, the value of an award, or the rationale for decline. It should be noted, however, that every year the total value of requests exceed the program's budget. Therefore, not all applicants can be funded, irrespective of relative merit or type of project.

As of July 2, 2009, eight (8) appeals were received; three from councillors and five from applicant organizations. The appeals are reviewed on the basis of: (1) new information unavailable to the reviewer or applicant at the time of submission, or (2) the application of program policy and procedures.

DISCUSSION

1. Faith Tabernacle Church - Halifax - Emergency Assistance

Faith Tabernacle requested \$25,000 towards assorted capital upgrades including washroom renovations, steps, walkway and exterior railings. As of the date of the review the status of the church as an EMO centre was unconfirmed. HRM staff have since confirmed that the church has been recognized as a potential evacuation centre and will be signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding. The total project is estimated to cost \$87,000 but may have to be phased in accordance with financing. The church has confirmed that washrooms and showers would constitute a priority and that they have the ability to secure financing.

Staff recommend a capital grant of \$10,000 towards accessible washrooms and showers.

Note: Policy Implications - staff will be recommending that any funding to an EMO comfort or evacuation centre be conditional upon submission of a signed MOU at the time of application. This process should reduce or mitigate the uncertainty of eligibility.

2. St. Paul's Church - Spryfield - Recreation & Leisure

St. Paul's Church requested \$25,000 to create a trail along the property perimeter and link with Long Lake Park. Originally, this application was reviewed under the Environment sector. Written feedback was provided to the applicant June 16, 2009, and it is mutually agreed that this project is better placed within the Recreation & Leisure sector. The 'trail' is more appropriately described as a public walking path (2,220 ft) with access for local residents and visitors ie. not congregational. The church is located in an area that does not uniformly have sidewalks and some areas are quite hilly. The pathway would also provide some outdoor relief for residents of nearby apartment buildings and food bank clients. The larger project may need to be phased

subject to fund-raising but the initial land clearance and placement of large boulders is beyond the ability of volunteers.

Staff recommend a capital grant of \$5,000 towards the development of a walking pathway. Staff recommend any further municipal funding for the project require cost-sharing (including fundraising, grants from other government programs, foundations, corporate in-kind donations etc) to enhance scope and sustainability.

3. Ecology Action Centre - Halifax - Recreation & Leisure

The Ecology Action Centre requested \$5,613.71 in support of the *Bike Again* program. Specifically, volunteer training (\$2,560), tool replacement (\$2,321.49), and EAC project administration (\$732.22). Feedback provided to the group noted the lack of detailed curriculum or workshop design and sustainability¹ and that core administrative costs are ineligible. The strongest aspect of the submission was the purchase of new or replacement tools, preferably from a local retailer. The appeal requests partial funding for the purchase of tools/equipment only. Staff note that there is no cost-share proposed by the applicant. The recommended value of grant represents ~50% cost-sharing for equipment.

Staff recommend a project grant of \$1,000 towards the purchase of tools for the Bike Again Program.

4. Icelandic Memorial Society - Markland - Community History

The society requested a grant of \$5,000 towards a site survey (\$4,520), site clearing and gravel base (\$847.50), and building permit (\$116.20). These costs relate to the society's intent to erect a log cabin characteristic of early settlers. The application was declined on the basis of merit, sustainability, and concerns regarding the safety of the proposed structure (eg. vandalism, misuse) and any inferred responsibility on HRM's part if a funder. It has been determined that the society will construct the cabin solely at their expense with donated materials and labour, will purchase insurance coverage, and provide oversight and on-going operating costs. A site survey is a condition of executing the land lease agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Staff recommend a grant of \$4,520 for professional fees to complete a site survey.

¹ In the alternative the group was asked to consider computer assisted self-directed learning and learning aids that could be re-used, including access to members of the general public and/or the inclusion of the public in workshops and training programs for a modest fee.

5. Sac-A-Wa Canoe Club - Sackville - Recreation & Leisure

The club requested a grant of \$5,000 towards "greening" a portion of the club's site to create an open green space for event spectators and off-water activities for program participants. Trees have been cut and chipping is in progress. The next phase includes grading, soil and grass seeding (\$9,561). Staff have confirmed that due to the steep grade this area will not be the location of a proposed new facility.

Staff recommend a grant of \$4,000 towards development of a field area for on-shore programming and events hosting.

6. Aeolian Singers - Halifax - Arts & Crafts

The Aeolian Singers requested \$5,000 towards the production of a cd of works commissioned by Nova Scotia and Canadian female singer/songwriters. The request was declined on the basis of a potential fundraising association with breast cancer and project ranking relative to other applicants. The society has confirmed that no portion of cd sales revenue will be donated to a third party. Provincial and federal funding has been sought but the choir is ineligible because the group and/or recording are not considered "professional" ie. choir members are not paid for their performance. Albeit the cd will be sold, the group cannot afford to cash flow the entire project; it is expected to take ~4-5 years to sell all copies. Costs could be revised by reducing the scope of the lyrics/credits booklet and cd launch, and a smaller initial production run.

Staff recommend a grant of \$4,000 towards cd recording (\$1,500) and manufacturing costs (\$2,500).

7. Scouts Canada: Halifax Area - Waverley - Recreation & Leisure

Scouts Canada requested \$20,000 for the construction of a new Director's cabin at Camp Lone Cloud located on Miller Lake. The estimated cost has been adjusted down to \$14,319 and \$5,000 in funding has been confirmed from NS Sport & Recreation. Construction of the building envelope will begin in September - November, after the peak camp season, and the interior fit-up may have to be deferred to the Spring of 2010. Assistance has been sought from corporations, foundations and service clubs.

Staff recommend a capital grant of \$5,000 towards cabin construction at Camp Lone Cloud.

8. Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club - Dartmouth - Recreation & Leisure

The Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club requested \$5,000 towards washroom renovations in support of a new program for disabled youth. The club has confirmed receipt of provincial funding (\$10,000) but will not be able to undertake the project until after the World Canoe Championships, August, 2009. In the immediate, an elevator and a co-ed accessible washroom

have been installed to provide access to the second floor meeting rooms. These upgrades were funded by a provincial grant, the World Canoe Championships host society, and the sale of lottery machines to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation.

Staff recommend a capital grant of \$5,000 for the creation of fully accessible boathouse washrooms and change rooms in support of the development of programs for persons with a disability.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The program budget for 2009-2010 was \$503,700. As of June, 2009, 69 awards were approved for a combined total of \$464,011 leaving a balance of \$39,689 in account M311-8004.

If approved, the recommended awards total \$38,520 leaving a balance of \$1,169.

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

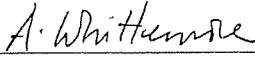
The HRM Grants Committee may amend a staff recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, HRM Community Development
490-5469.

Report Approved by: 
Andrew Whitemore, Manager, Community Relations & Cultural Affairs,
Community Development, 490-1585