

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**December 6, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Sheila Fougere  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:**

Councillors: McInroy  
Uteck  
Hum  
Mosher  
Adams  
Goucher  
Rankin

**STAFF:**

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Karen Brown, Acting Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Younger, the minutes of November 15, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. **COUNCIL FOCUS AREA - BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES**

- An information report dated November 30, 2005 was submitted.

Ms. Carol Macomber, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture addressed Council and provided a presentation on the Focus Area of *Building Strong Communities*. In her remarks, Ms. Macomber noted that her presentation was a context piece which lays the framework for the development of community based solutions relating to public safety, by-law enforcement, community relations, youth, community recreation, community development, and economic development. Ms. Macomber advised that staff will take direction from Council during the focus areas sessions, and return with an action plan and associated strategies to address community issues.

*At 2:13 p.m. Councillor Sloane entered the meeting and took her seat in Council.*

Ms. Macomber responded to questions and the following points by members of Council were noted:

- if the citizens and community are the drivers of change, staff should ensure there is adequate citizen participation.
- concern expressed about the difficulty some community groups will find themselves in this winter due to the high cost of fuel and power, and questioned what staff is prepared to do to assist these groups.
- support having funds in the budget for strategic acquisition of land.
- library workers are good community resources; suggestion that there be more library workers.
- suggestion of a youth delegation to respond to the issue that some of the programming is outdated for what youth want today.

4. **COUNCIL FOCUS AREA - YOUTH**

- An information report dated November 30, 2005 was submitted.

Ms. Macomber, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture addressed Council and provided a presentation on the focus area of *Youth*. Ms. Macomber outlined the areas of concern that Council expressed during a workshop and she reviewed initiatives currently

underway by staff. With regard to direction staff is seeking from Council, Ms. Macomber referred to the table attached to the information report and noted that this forms the basis on which staff would like feedback from Council.

Ms. Macomber and Ms. Claudette Levy, Area Coordinator, Recreation Tourism & Culture responded to questions.

*At 2:28 p.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting and took her seat in Council.*

The following points by members of Council were noted:

- suggestion that schools and other facilities be available for after school hours, so that youth would have a place to go and be with their friends; does not necessarily mean structured programs need to be developed.
- ensure that when places are created for youth, that the activities are compatible; e.g. a basketball group should not be in a location beside a skateboarding area.
- affordability of youth programs and activities is a concern
- suggestion that staff work through the schools in reaching out to youth, as many do not feel they belong at youth activities such as youth cafes.
- ensure HRM facilities, that are used for youth activities, are properly maintained.
- facilities that receive partial tax exemption should be required to provide activities for some youth, with no charge.
- question raised as to whether the Youth Live program ever expands beyond 18 employees.
- partner with local churches in regard to finding additional facilities.
- tap in to the communities to develop a mentorship program - leadership and coaching will develop an effective youth strategy; youth at the junior high school level are in most need of having a place to go.
- district has a problem of adequate transit for youth to access programs.
- Council needs to understand its goals in youth strategy and establish a baseline in order to determine, in future, if it is meeting its goals.
- provide mentorship programs for coaches; re-evaluate fee structure for field rentals; provide honorariums to students to help in community, such as clean up programs.
- youth issues in the rural areas are different from the urban, e.g. not a lot of youth crime in rural areas, but youth programming is very important.
- Council members are leaders and should somehow share their role with youth - perhaps could be something that students put towards a credit in school.
- concern expressed in regard to the Current Initiatives of Supplementary funding for education where it states, "*analyse the intention and use of supplementary education funding and recommend new approaches if necessary and/or appropriate.*" It was noted that several Councillors sit on the Committee and this is not the approach they are taking.
- developing partnerships is key.
- believe the youth strategy must reach all of the youth of HRM or endeavour to try to reach all of the youth; re-writing the Youth Justice Act will not solve all the problems - have to deal with the root causes.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk

