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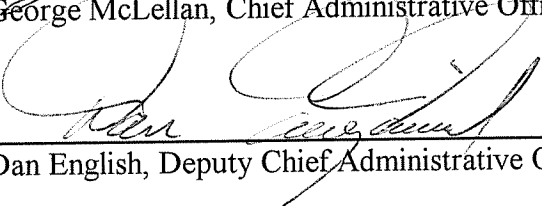
Halifax Regional Council
September 13, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer



Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: August 31, 2005

SUBJECT: Cultural Plan Draft Goals & Objectives

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

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|------------------|--|
| March 08, 2005 - | Regional Council approves the Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership |
| June 21, 2005 | Regional Council endorses Cultural Advisory Committee work-plan, including three-phased public consultation process. |
| July 14, 2005 | Cultural Advisory Committee hosts seven community workshops and one cultural industry workshop, pursuant to CAC work-plan. |

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Regional Council approve the Cultural Advisory Committee's September 9th report and recommendation to endorse the draft Cultural Plan Goals & Objectives.

BACKGROUND

The HRM Cultural Advisory Committee was established in February 2005 to advise Council on the planning and implementation elements of the proposed HRM Cultural Plan including the public consultation process. The Committee has been working closely with staff from HRM's Recreation, Tourism & Culture Department and the CAO's Office to implement the planning process and develop the draft Plan. To date, the values and principles have been defined, five strategic directions for the Plan have been developed and goals and objectives have been drafted.

Cultural Planning staff have also been working regularly with the Interdepartmental Cultural Committee (ICC) to seek input into the planning process and Plan content. The ICC consists of staff representatives from HRM's Governance & Strategic Initiatives, Mayor's Office, CAO's Office, Recreation, Tourism & Culture, Planning & Development, Capital District and Regional Planning, Financial Services, Real Property & Asset Management, and the Halifax Public Libraries.

The draft goals and objectives have been reviewed and endorsed by the Interdepartmental Cultural Committee and their respective departments with the understanding that further development, refinement and discussions will take place over the next several weeks pending Council's approval.

DISCUSSION

Since Council's establishment of the CAC and subsequent approval of their work-plan a number of initiatives under the planning process have been successfully completed including:

May - August -	Ten (10) Cultural Advisory Committee Meetings
June -	Cultural Plan Discussion Paper
June -	Press Conference
June - August	Seven (7) Community Workshops, one (1) Cultural Industry Workshop, two (2) Public Surveys, draft web-site design, special events booths
June - July	Cultural Principles & Strategic Directions drafted
July - August	Cultural Goals & Objectives drafted

There have also been numerous meetings and communications with the Interdepartmental Cultural Committee to vet draft material and seek input. Cultural Planning staff are very pleased with the planning process to date and the degree of involvement and interest from the public and cultural industry stakeholders. The Cultural Plan is a topic which is very important to citizens across the region who have responded positively and optimistically to HRM's initiative in this regard.

Cultural Industry has also shown great interest in the Plan's development demonstrated by the Pier 21 Workshop on July 27th which had over 100 participants. The key message delivered by Cultural Industry has been the need for government and investors of all types to recognize the tremendous impact of the cultural sector on economic and community development by giving policy the "teeth" to respond to cultural development needs. In other words, *make the Cultural Plan actionable*.

The community-cultural development approach to the proposed Cultural Plan and the draft goals and objectives as presented by the HRM Cultural Advisory Committee are reflective of those key messages and very much consistent with the input received from community.

The next phase of the consultation will enable the CAC to draw further from the expertise, experience and perspectives within the community and cultural sector to explore the objectives further and develop Plan policy and implementation mechanisms. Further consultation with community, and within the HRM organization, will ensure the cultural policy and implementation framework is consistent with HRM's cultural development needs and with Council's priorities.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate implications associated with endorsing the draft Goals & Objectives. Costs associated with the Cultural Planning process have been allocated from the Recreation Tourism & Culture business unit.

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

- 1) Change the draft cultural planning goals and objectives (Not Recommended)

ATTACHMENTS

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

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Financial Review: _____
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