

Halifax Community Investment Fund Society

12 September 2016

Monthly Meeting Minutes

George Dixon Centre

Present: Bryan Darrell (Treasurer), Carl Gannon (Vice-Chair), Amy Hunt (Secretary), Lindell Smith, and Craig Walkington (Chair)

Regrets: Linda Mantley

Absent: Melinda Daye

1. **Call to Order:** 5:36pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved / Seconded by Bryan / Lindell to accept the agenda as amended. CARRIED.

3. **Approval of Meeting Notes from 6 June 2016:** Moved / Seconded by Lindell / Bryan to approve the minutes of 6 June 2016 as tabled. CARRIED.

4. **Presentation and Grant Request – The Halifax Music Co-op (HMC):** John Bogardus, Executive Director of the HMC, made a presentation to the HCIF Board and a request for a \$5,000 grant to be paid in three equal installments in September 2016, January 2017 and April 2017. Under the umbrella of the HMC, a recent addition to programming includes Sistema (a global social movement which originated in Venezuela) serving over 800,000 youth worldwide. It is based on the principles of inclusivity and accessibility. Locally in North End Halifax, there has been over 800 individual members in the past five years. The idea behind Sistema is “music for social change”. The program is specifically offered to children who are unsupervised/unsupported or have little access to extra-curricular programming after school and before sleep. Sistema NS has grown from one day per week to three days per week and they are now aiming for five days per week. Programming includes choir and violin class with a focus on younger children (ages 5 – 10) with \$5,000 from one other donor. Music education is a strength of the organization. It is a social movement and an idea – not a curriculum or a specific genre of music. The international association of Sistema has research data that illustrates the success of music education for the youth it serves. The instruments are all donated. The biggest challenge currently is paying the music teachers to work past classroom hours to include community outreach, connecting with other community organizations that serve youth and also supporting the transportation needs of youth (pick up from school for example).

There are children from the HCIF catchment area that participate, and the organization is focusing on this community going forward but there are also children from the broader community. The dream is that every day from 3:00pm to 6:00pm there will be children accessing and experiencing music education and developing their passion; and that everyone can experience it from the education stage to the performance stage in the community. Mr. Bogardus requested \$5,000 for two scholarships over the course of the next year in three installments – using the money to reach 30 to 40 children to fund the teaching, community outreach, and program delivery for five days a week. \$5,000 would cover two teachers for 1 – 2 hours per day and community outreach, as well as healthy snacks and child care if necessary for nine months of the year.

5. Presentation and Grant Request – Hope Blooms: Jessie Jollymore, Executive Director of Hope Blooms, presented to the HCIF Board. She outlined that there is an urgent need for \$15,000 at Hope Blooms. She said that the project has been very successful, growing 21,000 pounds of food over the past eight years which goes home with the youth free of charge. Recently, the impact of the Hope Blooms program in terms of education and community engagement has been very positive. For example, the youth leaders have successfully completed a food security course and that one youth was the first Hope Blooms youth to go to university and has won a major national scholarship given his leadership with Hope Blooms. Recently, 110 Syrian refugees have been engaged in the garden and this created a financial need that was unexpected. The families are growing food at Hope Blooms and are present every day. It is positive development, but has been financially draining. Also, a summer tutoring program was started to support the youth education every Wednesday night. Jessie and Alvero and the youth are carrying the full workload and would benefit from a full-time person to work in the garden. In addition, there have been financial cutbacks: there is no funding currently from the provincial government and the financial and mentorship of Dragons’ Den has dried up. Jessie requested a contribution of \$15,000 in exchange for the support of Hope Blooms programming in the name of HCIF (specifically the mentorship program).

HCIF Cash Flow Review/Update: Given the above two requests, Craig reviewed the HCIF cash flow and investments as of 9 September 2016 to guide the Board’s deliberations related to the requests from the HMC and Hope Blooms.

Motion: Moved / Seconded by Craig / Bryan that the HCIF provide a grant of \$5,000 to the Halifax Music Co-op payable in three installments with the first installment being paid immediately with subsequent installments upon proof of programming that serves a minimum of five youth in the HCIF catchment area with the goal of increasing that number over the following two terms. CARRIED.

Motion: Moved /Seconded by Bryan / Amy that the HCIF provide \$10,000 to Hope Blooms for the youth mentorship program. CARRIED.

6. **Financial Update:** Bryan tabled financial updates as follows:

The HCIF financial status for end of **June 2016** was as follows:

Investment Portfolio at ScotiaMcLeod:	\$1,358,609
Bank Account at Scotiabank:	\$ 10,366

The HCIF financial status for end of **July 2016** was as follows:

Investment Portfolio at ScotiaMcLeod:	\$1,358,906
Bank Account at Scotiabank:	\$ 23,368

The HCIF financial status for end of **August 2016** was as follows:

Investment Portfolio at ScotiaMcLeod:	\$1,350,727
Bank Account at Scotiabank:	\$ 5,861

The estimated annual income from the investment portfolio is \$46,787

7. **Confirmation of Email Vote** – Deferred to next meeting.

8. **Attendance at the HRM Volunteer Conference** – Deferred to next meeting.

9. **Community Meeting and BBQ Feedback** – Deferred to next meeting.

10. **2016 Bursary Program Update** – Deferred to next meeting.

11. **Issues for Future Discussion at October and November Meetings**

- HCIF board and the political system. What are our responsibilities and expectations if we should chose to run or support an individual?
- Projects for 2017.
- Logo/Brochure Colour Scheme.
- Board Training

Deferred to next meeting.

12. **Upcoming Social Media Activity** – Deferred to next meeting.

13. **Next HCIF Board Meeting:** 5:30pm on Monday, 3 October 2016 at the George Dixon Centre.

14. **Meeting Adjournment:** 7:38pm. Moved by: Bryan.