

# Halifax Community Investment Fund Society

2 June 2014

## Meeting Minutes

### George Dixon Centre

(Revised 10 June 2104)

**Present:** Craig Walkington, Bryan Darrell, Linda Mantley, Paul O'Hara, Carl Gannon and Michelle Strum.

**Absent:** Melinda Daye.

**Guests:** Margaret Casey, Bernie Smith, Kathy Legge, Jennifer Watts.

1. **Call to Order:** 5:37pm.
2. **Agenda Approval:** Moved / Seconded by Bryan / Paul to accept the agenda as tabled. Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes From 5 May 2014 Meeting:** Moved / Seconded by Linda / Michelle to approve the minutes of the 5 May 2014 meeting as tabled. Carried.
4. **Presentation from North Central Community Council Association:**

Margaret Casey, chair of the North Central Community Council Association (NCCC), opened the discussion indicating that the NCCC would benefit strongly from the support of the HCIF for their plan to acquire the St. Patrick's-Alexandra site. Margaret indicated that without this support the application would be viewed negatively by Municipal Councillors. Councillor Jennifer Watts added that Council has approved moving to the next stage of the process, however, discussion included questions around the financial sustainability of the project and that a clear indication of community support would be important. She did say Councillors had questions about the HCIF and whether the \$1,000,000 was available for this project. Craig made the point that Council did not have any discretion to direct HCIF funding. Bryan also made points about the HCIF Board's good stewardship of the HCIF funds. It was clear that Jennifer was not aware of the work of the HCIF Board and Craig said he would forward her information relating to the HCIF and its work. Bernie Smith indicated that in the past the school was a benefit to the community and therefore the development should also be of benefit to the community in the future. He indicated that housing that was in reach of those living in the community would be a priority of the development. Bernie also made the point that both the Province and the Municipality have indicated the need for support from the HCIF. Kathy Legge indicated that the Friendship Centre provides services for more

than 3,500 Mi'kmaq people who do not have the capacity to purchase their own homes and that this project would be of benefit to them. Michelle asked who would "own" the project: NCCC or NS Government? Margaret indicated that the NCCC would own and the Province of NS would be the banker. The NCCC is meeting on 17 June with Housing Nova Scotia and there is an urgency for the HCIF to signal its support. Margaret asked that the HCIF find a way to demonstrate its support for NCCC as this would help with that meeting. Carl raised the point of "risk" to HCIF if we move to provide financial support. Margaret indicated if NCCC owned the land, this would limit risk.

After the guests left, the HCIF dealt with regular business, as reported in the minutes below, before discussing the NCCC request.

Craig noted that there were two forms of support that the HCIF could potentially provide to the NCCC:

- a. "Moral" Support – In the form of letters of support and a HCIF motion to support the NCCC in its quest to acquire the site.
- b. Financial Support – Craig presented a handout that outlined five potential options as follows:
  - I. Do nothing.
  - II. Donate money to the NCCC.
  - III. Lend money to the NCCC.
  - IV. Donate and lend money to the NCCC.
  - V. Fold the HCIF Society and donate the entire HCIF portfolio to the NCCC with the provision that the NCCC must commit itself to carry on the programs and objectives of the HCIF.

The first part of the discussions determined that it was important for the HCIF Board to offer moral support to the NCCC.

**Motion:** Moved / Seconded by Michelle / Paul that the HCIF supports the NCCC proposal to acquire the St. Patrick's-Alexandra site. Carried.

(Notes: 1. During the discussion clarification was requested by Carl regarding the term "support". The term "support" was determined to mean "support in principle".  
2. Bryan recused himself from voting on this motion as he also sits on the NCCC Board).

The HCIF Board then discussed the pros and cons of each option noted above and ruled out Options I and V. There was considerable discussion regarding the options of the HCIF borrowing the money itself and loaning it to the NCCC, or guaranteeing a loan on behalf of the NCCC. It was determined that there was insufficient information at the time to make a specific decision regarding loan guarantees, however, it was important for the HCIF Board to signal its financial support to the NCCC right away.

**Motion:** Moved / Seconded by Michelle / Paul that the HCIF is willing to provide support in the form of a loan/guarantee to the NCCC subject to the availability of satisfactory information from the NCCC. Carried. (Note: Bryan recused himself from voting on this motion as he also sits on the NCCC Board).

To conclude this agenda item, Craig said he would contact the NCCC and Councillor Watts to advise them of the two approved motions.

**5. Financial Update:** Bryan tabled the report secretarially. The HCIF financial status at the end of May 2014 was as follows:

Investment Portfolio at ScotiaMcLeod:	\$1,178,344
Bank Account at Scotiabank:	\$ 677

**6. Bursary Program Update:** Carl reported that there were 11 satisfactory applications and recommended that the Board approve an additional bursary as not all bursaries were disbursed last year.

**Motion:** Moved / Seconded by Carl / Michelle to increase the number of bursaries from 10 to 11 requiring an additional \$2,500.00 be allocated to the program and to approve the following 11 recipients as recommended by the Bursary Selection Committee:

- |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| - Caragh MacKinnon | - Ryan Brown       | - Chelsea Bundy     |
| - Angelina Carvery | - Anastasia Frison | - Brae Rod-Gaudreau |
| - Sasha Diggs      | - Julian Rogers    | - Jeffery Rogers    |
| - Kadeem Hinch     | - Ashton Ross      |                     |

Motion Carried.

Craig thanked Carl and the Bursary Selection Committee for their efforts with this year's Bursary Program.

**7. Board Revitalization:** Craig noted that there was a need to move ahead quickly on writing the detail Action Plan for each of the approved Strategic Objectives. He said that the best approach would be for Board Members to "own" an objective and they would be responsible for writing and stewarding the implementation of their respective Action Plan. The HCIF Board members agreed to take on the following Strategic Objectives as follows:

- I. **Visibility Objective** – To implement a Communications Plan to improve visibility in the community by December 2014 – Responsible Board Members: Linda and Bryan.
- II. **Bursary Program Objective** – To generate “x” number of applications from eligible residents for financial assistance by May 2014 – Responsible Board Member: Carl.
- III. **Seniors Wills Program Objective** – To provide pro-bono will services to “x” number of seniors in 2014 and to increase by “x” percentage in 2015 and 2016 – Responsible Board Member: Bryan.
- IV. **Board Rejuvenation Objective** – To implement an HCIF Board Recruitment, Training, and Succession Plan by December 2014 – Responsible Board Member: Craig.
- V. **Collaboration/Partnerships Objective** – To establish new partnerships in each of the five HCIF pillars with organizations that support our mandate within the next 24 months – Responsible Board Members – Responsible Board Member: Michelle.

Craig said he would distribute the draft Strategic Plan (Microsoft Word version) so that members can start writing their respective Action Plan.

8. **Board Recruitment:** Craig indicated that he had received an application from an individual who worked in the HCIF area and that the applicant fits one the HCIF demographic criteria for new HCIF Board members. Craig requested that he be allowed to process the application. Bryan recommended that we use the opportunity to recruit additional members and that the HCIF should develop and post a recruiting ad for *The Coast* and/or *The Metro* newspapers with a focus on looking for skills in Fund Raising/Marketing/Legal. Bryan said he will research the costs and report to the Board via email. As such, the application that Craig is holding will not be processed right away. Craig said he would advise the applicant.

9. **Next Meeting:** Craig stated that there is a need to continue the momentum that was generated from the Strategic Planning weekend and that we should have some additional meetings in order to advance the strategic planning. It was agreed that we would convene the following meetings:

- a. Monday, 16 June 2014 at 5:30pm at Craig’s House.
- b. Monday, 7 July 2014 at 5:30pm at the George Dixon Centre.

10. **Meeting Adjournment:** 7:57pm.