

HCIF, 4 March 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present: Craig, Linda, Melinda, Paul, Carl, Bryan

Regrets: Michelle

Moved/2nd, Paul/Melinda approval of the agenda

Moved/2nd Linda/Bryan approval of the minutes of 4 February 2013 meeting

Financial Update: We continue to stay in positive standing with banking, \$6639.00 in operation account. One bursary from this year has been returned and a 2nd not cashed. Bryan will follow up with educational institution. Carl has the Postal Box key and will ensure Craig has a copy.

We have committed but not allocated \$25,000 to the North Central Community Committee (NCCC) to develop a business plan for the St. Pat's/Alexandra site. The provision of funds is contingent on three criteria that were stipulated at the meeting that approved the allocation of funds. A community meeting with area youth has taken place and an adult community meeting is in the planning stage. Jennifer Watts (area counselor) is aware of the NCCC activities and will ensure city engagement when timing is appropriate.

We have a surplus of income funds from investments and discussed setting approximately 16% of the surplus funds aside to ensure stable funding. We discussed informing community of our funds available but decided a "plan" for how it might be spent is important. We also felt programs by agencies supported would need to be offered within our boundary area.

Pro Bono Will Program: Bryan reported on the Pro Bono Will Program for seniors. Clients will be screened by the law firms involved and applicants would need the last two years of Revenue Canada "Notice of Assessment" (tax return). Bryan would like Melinda and Paul to assist with organizing community meetings to explain the program.

Mary Lou Redden (guest presenter) was introduced and explained the program she is running at St. George's Church, "Humanities 101" it is a university level course offered to people within HRM and focused on those who would not normally qualify to engage in post secondary education. The program is in its 8th year, has graduated 90 students, is taught by university professors, focusing on liberal arts and encourages students to think about human community. It has improved self esteem; some students have gone on to university as well as become more actively engaged in their community. The program is advertised mostly by word of mouth, flyers in food banks, libraries, The Coast, Kaji. It was noted that members of the African Nova Scotian community have not been students in the program although the Black Educators organization is aware of the program. Ms Redden noted that approximately 2/3 of the students were female and approximately 1/3 are seniors. She also noted that a number of the students have mental health issues. Ms. Redden stated that the program provides an area of interest to older students. Craig noted that in order to consider funding for the program, the HCIF Board would require the number of participating students from the HCIF defined area. Craig also asked if there was a specific amount and deadline for receiving funding. Ms. Redden stated there was no deadline and they would be grateful for any donation. In conclusion, Ms. Redden stated that she recognizes that the HCIF Board is concerned about student participation from the defined area. She said that while there are many students who come from outside the area, the HHS is a program that is entrenched in the North End. She also stated that the HHS is a charitable organization.

Bursary Program

2012-2013 – Carl noted that there are just one or two administrative issues to conclude in order to close-off last year's program.

2013-2014 – Carl stated that the final application form has been approved and will be distributed. He noted that Rev Britton from the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church is available to sit on the Bursary Selection Committee after 19 May 2013. The cut-off date for applications is 5 May 2013.

Next Meeting – Monday, 6 May 2013. (Note: There will be no meeting on 1 April 2013 as it is Easter Monday and the George Dixon Centre will be closed)