



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 31, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage  
Deputy Mayor Tim Outhit  
Councillors: Cathy Deagle Gammon  
David Hendsbee  
Becky Kent  
Trish Purdy  
Sam Austin  
Tony Mancini  
Waye Mason  
Lindell Smith  
Shawn Cleary  
Kathryn Morse  
Patty Cuttell  
Iona Stoddard  
Pam Lovelace  
Lisa Blackburn

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jane Fraser, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer  
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Denise Schofield, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation  
Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk  
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m., and recessed at 12:15 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:15 p.m. Budget Committee recessed at 2:38 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 3:22 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

## **3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

## **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Karen McKendry**, Ecology Action Centre, spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the Parks and Recreation 2021/22 Budget & Business Plan, specifically Parks and Recreation’s parkland acquisition priorities in larger regional parks given the positive impact of these lands on the environment.

**Ross Jefferson**, President & CEO, Discover Halifax, spoke before the Budget Committee and answered questions regarding the allocation of special support for event development in the Parks and Recreation 2021/22 Budget & Business Plan as these supports will assist with the recovery of the tourism industry when public health restrictions ease.

**Kellie Allen**, Director, Roots and Boots Forest School, spoke before the Budget Committee and answered questions regarding outdoor education programs for youth and alternative funding options to support the measures contained within the Parks and Recreation 2021/22 Budget & Business Plan.

**Wendy MacDonald**, Halifax, spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the need in District 12 for functional parkland, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and programs.

**Colin May**, Dartmouth, spoke before the Budget Committee regarding the presence of “no winter maintenance” signs on the Dartmouth Common’s pedestrian pathways and the parks at Bicentennial school. May also requested signage for the Dartmouth Common informing cyclists that pedestrians have priority on the pathways.

## **5. Parks and Recreation**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 10, 2021
- A staff presentation dated March 31, 2021 entitled “Parks & Recreation 2021/22 Budget & Business Plan”
- A staff memorandum dated March 31, 2021 entitled “Proposed Budget Adjustment List”

Denise Schofield, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of Parks & Recreation 2021/22 Budget & Business Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks and Recreation proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 10, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.**

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee include \$750,000 in one-time funding for costs associated with a COVID Recovery Event and a COVID Event Grant Program within the proposed 2021/22 Parks and Recreation budget to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the Budget Committee include \$250,000 in on-going funding for costs associated with the Discover Halifax (Destination Management) Integrated Tourism Master Plan/COVID Recovery, within the proposed 2021/22 Parks and Recreation budget to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the funding supports provided to HRM partner recreation facilities.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$1,757,350 in one-time funding for costs associated with the Multi-District Facility Subsidy Request (COVID impact) within the proposed 2021/22 Parks and Recreation budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Cleary

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the Budget Committee include \$125,000 in one-time funding for costs associated with the Public Art piece (Queens Marque) within the proposed 2021/22 Parks and Recreation budget to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillor Blackburn

Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT Budget Committee request a briefing note detailing the measures and implications for including \$85,000 in on-going funding for costs associated with the Multi Service Youth Centre - Future Commitment within the proposed 2021/22 Parks and Recreation budget, to be considered in the parking lot as an operating over budget option.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair

The question was called on the main motion as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks and Recreation proposed 2021/22 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the March 10, 2021 staff report and supporting presentation by staff, into the Draft 2021/22 Operating Budget.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Iain MacLean  
Municipal Clerk