



**SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 13, 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Paul Russell, Chair
Councillor Tony Mancini, Vice Chair
Todd Brayman
Ross Jefferson
Tim Rissesco
Mark Schaay
Gordon Stewart
Councillor Kathryn Morse

REGRETS: Alison Gillan

STAFF: Kellie McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager
Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. and adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 8, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Morse, seconded by Gordon Stewart

THAT the minutes of June 8, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Tim Rissesco

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Presentation – Rugby Canada – Senior Women Rugby Canada vs Wales

Dr. John Gillis, Rugby Canada spoke to the Special Events Advisory Committee regarding the upcoming Senior Women Rugby Canada vs Wales test match scheduled for August 27, 2022 at the Wanderers Grounds. Gillis acknowledged the circumstances that prevented Rugby Canada from applying for funding until after the funding application deadline expired. Gillis outlined the importance of the August 27, 2022 test match as an event that will engage with local rugby players and will also attract tourists.

Emma Taylor, Women's National Rugby Team player spoke regarding their experience on the national team including their experience at last year's training camp in Halifax and the warm welcome of local fans.

Gillis, Taylor and Sophie de Goede, Women's National Rugby Team Captain responded to questions of clarification from the Committee including the level of engagement with local rugby clubs during the team's August 2022 training camp, how the requested event funding will be used and the future of the national Women's rugby team in Halifax for training and match play.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 MLSER Funding Request Senior Women’s Rugby Canada vs Wales Match

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 27, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an event grant in the amount of \$50,000, from the 2022/2023 Community and Events Reserve, Q621, to fund the Senior Women’s Rugby Canada vs Wales event contingent on the in-person event taking place.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Ross Jefferson – Discover Halifax

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated July 13, 2022

Ross Jefferson, Discover Halifax gave a presentation regarding Discover Halifax’s core programs and the proposed changes to the HRM hotel levy. Jefferson responded to questions of clarification from the Committee including the key performance indicators used to measure Discover Halifax measure success in bringing conventions and events to Halifax, the proposed increase of the hotel levy, the progress of provincial legislative change to finalize the hotel levy increase, the impact of Take the Lead advertising program, the use of hotel rooms for emergency homeless shelters and whether the post-COVID bump in events will be sustained beyond 2022.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 10, 2022 (if required)

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood
Legislative Assistant