



**BUDGET COMMITTEE
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)
MINUTES
February 17 and 22, 2023**

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

REGRETS: Councillors: Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief
 Financial Officer
 John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal
 Solicitor
 Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk
 Annie Sherry, 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.*

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. and recessed at 12:03 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:02 p.m. and recessed at 2:47 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:01 p.m. and recessed at 4:15 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 10:41 a.m. on February 22, 2023, and recessed at 12:03 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 1:00 p.m. and recessed at 2:47 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened at 3:01 p.m. adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:31 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.

1.1 Budget Adjustment List

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Handout titled, "Budget Adjustment List Summary" dated February 17, 2023
- Handout titled, "Budget Adjustment List Summary" dated February 22, 2023

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Not present: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Kent, Smith, Cleary, Blackburn, Outhit

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Melany Nugent-Noble, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grant program, the merits of Nocturne Festival and noted that the elements of arts and culture in Halifax that drew them to the city as an artist.

David Jones, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reduction to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and Canoe Kayak Atlantic Division, standards for storing heritage artifacts, and highlighted the integral role the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has played in plans and strategies to preserve heritage while addressing colonialism within heritage spaces. Jones responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Joanne Pepers, Dartmouth Heritage Museum, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the scope of work and programming that the funding agreement with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) enables the Museum to do and noted that the loss of this grant would result in the loss of access to other grants for operational funding. Pepers further encouraged Budget Committee to stop targeting arts and culture funding as a soft target for budget cuts, highlighted the burnout that the arts community faces, and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Anita Price, Halifax, spoke to their concerns with the potential funding reduction to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the importance of the Museum's role in overarching strategies to protect heritage in the HRM, and encouraged Budget Committee to provide adequate budgetary support rather than cutting funding.

Jon Stone, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with the potential funding reduction to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, their role within the Helen Creighton Legacy Society and the history of the Society's work, the commitment on behalf of previous Councils to preserve heritage, and the larger cultural implications of erasing heritage.

Daniel Peters, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with the potential funding reduction to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the importance of Evergreen House in the community, and highlighted the importance of cultural activities on community well-being.

Kortney Dunsby, Ecology Action Centre, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions within the Planning & Development proposed 2023-24 budget impacting community development and highlighted that cutting funding to park acquisition would act in contradiction to overarching strategies within the HRM and result in the loss of one of the HRM's only activities that works to protect natural habitat. Dunsby further expressed their support for increasing building permit fees, noted that these fees had not been increased since 1997, and encouraged Budget Committee to acquire Sandy Lake.

Michael Craven, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum consultation leading up to this meeting, summarized decisions made regarding arts funding since 1997 and noted that every dollar in funding from the HRM results in another 80 cents being made available to the Museum from other funding sources.

Cindy Campbell-Stone, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, highlighted the cultural and historical significance of Dr. Helen Creighton in the community, and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the Museum.

Ceo Gaudet, Dartmouth, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the overwhelming impact that the proposed cut would have on the Museum while making only a small impact on the HRM's overall budget, and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the Museum instead of considering cutting funding.

Mark James, Atlantic Division CanoeKayak Canada, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to Lake Banook racecourse, the positive community impact of programming at Lake Banook, the role that Lake Banook has played in legitimizing canoeing and paddling that extends far beyond the HRM, and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Peter Courtney, Atlantic Division CanoeKayak Canada, spoke to their concerns with potential funding reductions to Lake Banook racecourse, the scope of the programming and community impact at Lake Banook, the economic impact of events like Canoe '22.

Darcie Bernhardt, Distict 8, spoke to their opposition to any potential funding reductions to the professional arts, funding for accessibility, and cultural funding at large. Bernhardt stressed the importance of the arts as a means for supporting and preserving Indigenous history and culture, the importance of professional arts funding and spaces as an Indigenous artist, and the arts as a cultural healing space. Bernhardt encouraged Budget Committee to consider the impact of cutting arts funding on the livelihood of community members.

Carmel Farahbakhsh, District 7, spoke to their opposition to any potential funding reductions to professional arts funding, the Discovery Centre, green spaces, and proposed increases to fees for key services. Farahbakhsh highlighted that arts and culture, accessibility, and community safety are 3 pillars

of community well-being, cited studies that highlight the socioeconomic importance of arts and culture, and shared their concerns with lack of sustainable funding for the arts.

Sebastian Labelle, District 5, spoke to their role at the Bus Stop Theatre on Gottingen Street, the scope of programming, community support, and high frequency of events that the Theatre puts on throughout the year, and the importance of arts and culture spaces and festivals throughout the pandemic. Labelle noted their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, detailed the loss of community theatre spaces in the HRM since 2018, highlighted the importance of all three levels of government investing in the arts while noting that current levels of government funding do not demonstrate the arts as a priority. Labelle responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Susanne Chui, District 8, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to Professional Arts Grants program, outlined the impact this funding has had on Mocean Dance Studio, and noted that recommendations previously put forward to increase the per capita funding for the arts have not been implemented as current per capita funding in HRM is \$1.16 while other major cities are around \$7.00. Chui noted that the Professional Arts Grants program supported the work of 36 organizations last year and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the arts rather than considering cuts. Chui responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee

Stephanie Domet, District 8, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, and that the proposed cut spurred conversations between several organizations and festivals in the HRM about the economic impact arts and culture spaces have on the HRM. Domet highlighted that the benefits of funding for the arts are far-reaching and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the arts rather than considering cuts.

Wren Tian, District 8, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program and cuts that impact accessibility. Tian spoke to their work at the Eyelevel Gallery, the importance of arts and culture as safe spaces for the BIPOC community and encouraged Budget Committee to reflect on how priorities are demonstrated by what is being funded and what is being considered for cuts.

Raven Davis, Halifax, spoke to their extensive involvement in the arts and culture community in the HRM and throughout the province, their opposition to proposed cuts to the Professional Arts Grants program, and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the arts rather than considering cuts.

Colin May, Dartmouth, spoke to understanding the importance of the arts, and suggested that Budget Committee consider hedging fuel costs.

Kate MacDonald, Halifax, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, the importance of the arts in their involvement in community as a life-long resident of the HRM, and encouraged Budget Committee to think about the kind of future being funded when increases to the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) is being considered when there are more than 800 houseless people in the HRM.

Lou Campbell, District 8, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program and feeling disheartened that the proposed cuts add up to an amount less than the requested increases to the HRP budget.

Viv, District 8 spoke to their concerns as a healthcare worker with the potential funding reductions to arts and culture programming, reduction of snow clearing for seniors, and libraries and the impact that these cuts will have people's ability to participate in recreational activities. Viv stated their opposition to the increased HRP budget, the importance of accessible and high-quality transportation, that cutting arts funding is a means of decreasing the socioeconomic well-being. Importance of funding and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Meredith Caliman, Halifax, spoke to how funding decisions in other jurisdictions and the effect they had on funding to the arts community at large. Caliman highlighted their involvement in the arts since moving to Nova Scotia, the importance of the arts within the HRM and encouraged Budget Committee to invest in the arts rather than considering cuts.

Jean Saratoke, Halifax spoke to the affect that the arts and culture community has on their experience as an individual who moved to Halifax as an international student and encouraged Budget Committee to consider what happens to people with stories like theirs when funding to the arts is cut.

Saba Blyden-Taylor, District 7, spoke to their experience as a staff member at the Khyber Arts Centre and the role that the arts has had on their well-being, and asked that Budget Committee to consider what could happen to community-wellbeing when the funding to the arts is cut.

Heather Wilkinson, District 8 spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, their involvement in the arts and culture community in the HRM, the scope of the programming at Wonderneath Arts Society, highlighted the essential nature of the Professional Arts Grants program to many of these organizations' existence, and invited the HRM to be an active partner in continuing to develop a vibrant arts sector.

Collins Ellison, District 8, spoke to their support for increasing funding to address homelessness and poverty in the HRM, their opposition to increased funding for the Halifax Regional Police, and highlighted the economic impact of incarcerating unhoused individuals rather than providing them with supports to be housed. Ellison spoke to their concerns with scope of the proposal for a day-time warming center, and noted that stopgap measures in place now will not address homelessness.

Lara Lewis, District 7, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program and their involvement in the arts and culture community in the HRM as Chair of the Bus Stop Theatre Board. Lewis noted the importance of being able to live and work in this space as an Indigenous artist, and their concerns with the narrative that if you are an artist that you need to go elsewhere to thrive.

Sally Wolchyn-Raab, District 8, spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, the power of the arts for individuals and economic impact of the arts, and programming at the Eyelevel Art Gallery. Wolchyn-Raab highlighted the impact of the funding that Eyelevel receives from HRM and the money that turns back into the economy, and that folks in the arts are tired of being asked to participate on committees and boards only to have their advice ignored.

Sam Penner, District 10 spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, public library funding, senior snow removal, and concerns with the lack of opportunities for individual artists to apply for funding. Penner encouraged Budget Committee follow the recommendation to create an arms-length organization to fund arts programs, to consider increasing funding for the arts, and to keep this level of turn out in mind when considering budgets in the future.

Sara Coffin, District 8 spoke to their opposition to potential funding reductions to the Professional Arts Grants program, their involvement in Mocean Dance, and the importance of working together to improve the vitality of the city. Coffin spoke to concerns with 60% of funding for bonus zoning going into to housing and that of the other 40%, none of it goes into the arts.

Susan LeBlanc, District 5, spoke to their involvement in the arts community in the HRM, detailed decisions made by other levels of government that have contributed to difficulties for the arts community, and noted that when funding has devolved from other levels of government the HRM has stepped up. LeBlanc encouraged Budget Committee to continue stepping up, and to invest more money in art, artists, art spaces.

Mayor Savage spoke to the importance of the public participation during the Municipal Budget process.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Auditor General

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Revised staff report dated January 10, 2023

Evangeline Colman-Sadd, Auditor General gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon

THAT the Budget Committee direct the staff to incorporate the Office of the Auditor General's proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the January 10, 2023 staff report and supporting presentation, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Colman-Sadd responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that their office would work with Regional Council to organize a training opportunity on audit literacy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

6.2 Planning & Development

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated February 9, 2023

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Planning & Development proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 9, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Denty responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding staff turnover and community infrastructure planning within the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Include alternative 1, a revenue increase of \$290,000 to \$1,450,000 through a Building Permit Fee increase as outlined in the Briefing Note BN031 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that an updated permit rate sheet would be included the staff report if the motion was approved.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding process for considering alternative motions and utility of briefing notes.

Councillor Cleary proposed to strike, "\$290,000 to" from the motion. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 as amended, from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Include alternative 1, a revenue increase of \$1,450,000 through a Building Permit Fee increase as outlined in the Briefing Note BN031 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Blackwood and John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Hendsbee proposed to strike, "Include alternative 1," from the beginning of the motion and replace it with, "Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the necessary steps to implement" and to strike, "within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an operating under budget option for consideration" from the end of the motion and replace it with, "and return to Regional Council." As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 1 as amended, from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the necessary steps to implement a revenue increase of \$1,450,000 through a Building Permit Fee increase as outlined in the Briefing Note BN031 and return to Regional Council.**

Denty responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that staff would be able to achieve an implementation date of April 1, 2023.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 2, an increase of \$450,000 for Suburban Plan and Rural Plan consultants as outlined in the Briefing Note BN032 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the process for reallocating funding within the budget if a Request for Proposal does not receive bids and noted that the Climate Action Tax can only be used for capital projects.

Councillor Lovelace proposed the motion be amended to add, "in the options reserve" immediately following, "\$450,000." As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 as amended, from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 2, an increase of \$450,000 in the options reserve for Suburban Plan and Rural Plan consultants as outlined in the Briefing Note BN032 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Councillor Purdy

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development and Peter Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Planning, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 3 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 4. Include alternative 3, an increase of \$276,200 for community action planning for African Nova Scotian communities as outlined in the Briefing Note BN033 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding models for partnering with community to create action plans and noted that an emphasis would be placed on recruiting staff persons for community outreach.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and suggested that Planning & Development staff would be able to provide further information on the rationale for classifying the proposed positions as full-time equivalent during consideration of the Budget Adjustment List.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 4 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Include alternative 4, an increase of \$120,360 for a rental registry program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN034 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor and Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Kelly Denty, Executive Director, Planning & Development, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

The question was called on the main motion:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the Budget Committee:

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Planning & Development proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 9, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget;**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with the necessary steps to implement a revenue increase of \$1,450,000 through a Building Permit Fee increase as outlined in the Briefing Note BN031 and return to Regional Council;**
- 3. Include alternative 2, an increase of \$450,000 in the options reserve for Suburban Plan and Rural Plan consultants as outlined in the Briefing Note BN032 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration;**

4. **Include alternative 3, an increase of \$276,200 for community action planning for African Nova Scotian communities as outlined in the Briefing Note BN033 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration; and**
5. **Include alternative 4, an increase of \$120,360 for a rental registry program as outlined in the Briefing Note BN034 within the proposed 2023/24 Planning & Development proposed budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

6.3 Parks & Recreation

The following was before Budget Committee:

- Staff report dated February 9, 2023
- Correspondence from Jim Hewey, Joanne Pepers, Jennifer Publicover, Kathryn Mohrmann, Maggie MacIntyre, Steven Schwinghamer, Gloria McCluskey, Claire Roach, Elaine Loney, Mark Chin-Yee, Abigail Hanson, Brian Thompson, Jayne E. Campbell, Joe Pitre, Patricia Lane, Risa Moss, Barry Rodenhiser, Cindy Campbell-Stone, David Jones, Joleen and Don Gordon, Jean Llewellyn, Janice Mason, Liam Caswell, Jon Stone, Kyle Cruickshanks, Mark DeWolf, Patricia Teasdale, Sancia Knorr, Veronica Post, Solomon Vromans, Allison Chubbs, Debora Pollock, Tim Rissesco and Paul MacKinnon and Sue Uteck, Graeme Hicks, Sarah Mian, Benny Welter-Nolan, Colin Dodds and Dov Bercovici, Julie Hollenbach, Kerry Jerrott, Luke Harnish, Kathrin Winkler, Jill Petrella, Laurie MacKay, Linda Scherzinger, Heather Watts, Kenneth Dewar, Skippy Mardon, Carole Woodhall, Ron Stockton, Marie Welton, Shirley Dean, Claire McNeil, Margo Grant, Helen Marshall, Jacqueline Bell, Elizabeth Abbott, Kathleen Hall, Heather Johannesen, Lawrence MacEachern, Janet Stevenson, Janet Warren, Nancy Thorpe, Claire Halpern, Linda Nicholl, Margaret Moody, Patricia Teasdale, School of Information Management Student Association, Janice Kirkbright, William Miller, Jim Johnson, Don Chard, Elissa Barnard, Gwen Davies, Jean Chard, John MacLeod, Leslie Hennen, LJ Niks, Margaret Murray, Maureen O'Connell, Shannon Donovan, Viki Samuels Stewart, Jenny Yujia Shi, Kit Holden-ada, Steven DeWitt, Karyn Ellis, Calinda Brown, Judith Fingard, Matt Spurway, Peggy Cameron, Dominique Gusset, Collins Ellison, Elinor Benjamin, Linda Bayers, Paul Rainville, Laura Vingoe-Cram, Matt Reid, Nina Drew, Kortney Dunsby, Hannah Zamora, Hannah Guinan, Malcolm Shookner, Peter Webster, Rhea McGarva,

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks & Recreation proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 9, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

2. **Include an increase this year of \$125,000 for Professional Arts Grants and recommends a \$125,000 increase next fiscal year as recommended in the February 13, 2018, report to Council in response to recommendations from the Arts Halifax Committee as outlined in**

the Briefing Note BN042 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, and Rosalyn Smith, Director, Regional Recreation Services responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the Professional Arts Grant program and the process for awarding funding to successful applicants.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn,

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Hendsbee, Purdy

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 7 from the staff report dated February 9 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 7, a reduction of \$600,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that a minimum amount of \$100,000 would be needed to run a smaller-scale Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and indicated that if Budget Committee wanted further information to consider allocating \$200,000 for a concert series in Dartmouth and Halifax, an additional briefing note would be required.

Councillor Smith proposed to amend the motion by adding a new section that read as, "Include an increase of \$200,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration." As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 7, a reduction of \$600,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration; and**

- 4. Include an increase of \$200,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

As provided for in section 90 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the motion was separated for voting purposes.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 3. Include alternative 7, a reduction of \$600,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (13 in favour, 3 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Mason, Stoddard

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 4. Include an increase of \$200,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (11 in favour, 5 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Cuttall, Stoddard

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Purdy, Lovelace, Blackburn

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Deputy Mayor Austin

THAT the motion be amended to include a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Include an increase of \$50,000 for Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society Grant within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Councillor Russell stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Deagle Gammon assumed the Chair.

Councillor Russell resumed the Chair.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND DEFEATED. (8 in favour, 8 against)

In favour: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Hendsbee, Kent, Mason, Morse, Stoddard, Lovelace

Against: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Purdy, Mancini, Smith, Cleary, Cuttall, Blackburn

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 5 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 5. Include alternative 5, a reduction of \$50,000 for reduction of Right of Way (ROW) mowing as outlined in the Briefing Note BN039 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee and noted that staff could provide additional details on the areas that the proposed reduction would affect during the Budget Adjustment List discussion.

Ray Walsh, Director, Parks responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the division of responsibilities for Right of Way mowing between Parks & Recreation and Public Works.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, and Nalini Naidoo, Director, Strategic Planning & Design responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 2 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 6. Include alternative 2, a reduction of \$100,000 for naming rights of the Commons Aquatics Centre as outlined in the Briefing Note BN036 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a revenue under budget option for consideration.**

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer, and John Traves, Executive Director of Legal & Legislative Services/Municipal Solicitor responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope of the Halifax Regional Municipality's policy for naming rights.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (15 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Morse, Stoddard, Lovelace, Blackburn

Against: Councillor Cuttell

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation, and Angela Green, Director, Recreation Programming, responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cuttell, seconded by Councillor Morse

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 16 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 7. Include alternative 16, an increase of \$500,000 for the Recreation Access Program (Affordable Access Program) as outlined in the Briefing Note BN050 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a revenue over budget option for consideration.**

Angela Green, Director, Recreation Programming, and Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

Jerry Blackwood, Executive Director of Finance & Asset Management/Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee regarding the scope and recent amendments to the Administrative Order for the affordable access program.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED. (12 in favour, 4 against)

In favour: Budget Committee Chair Russell, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Austin, Councillors Deagle Gammon, Hendsbee, Kent, Purdy, Mason, Cleary, Morse, Cuttell, Stoddard

Against: Councillors Mancini, Smith, Lovelace, Blackburn

Not present: Councillor Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the motion be amended to include alternative motion 14 from the staff report dated February 9, 2023, as a new section that reads as follows:

- 8. Include alternative 14, a reduction of \$20,000 for Shrub Bed Maintenance Reduction in ROW (cul-de-sacs) as outlined in the Briefing Note BN048 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks & Recreation responded to questions of clarification from Budget Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT the Budget Committee:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate the Parks & Recreation proposed 2023/24 Budget and Business Plan, as set out and discussed in the accompanying plan and supporting presentation to the staff report dated February 9, 2023, into the Draft 2023/24 Operating Budget;
2. Include an increase this year of \$125,000 for Professional Arts Grants and recommends a \$125,000 increase next fiscal year as recommended in the February 13, 2018 report to Council in response to recommendations from the Arts Halifax Committee as outlined in the Briefing Note BN042 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration;
3. Include alternative 7, a reduction of \$600,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration;
4. Include an increase of \$200,000 for Grand Oasis and Dartmouth Sunshine Summer Series as outlined in the Briefing Note BN041 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense over budget option for consideration;
5. Include alternative 5, a reduction of \$50,000 for reduction of Right of Way (ROW) mowing as outlined in the Briefing Note BN039 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration;
6. Include alternative 2, a reduction of \$100,000 for naming rights of the Commons Aquatics Centre as outlined in the Briefing Note BN036 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a revenue under budget option for consideration;
7. Include alternative 16, an increase of \$500,000 for the Recreation Access Program (Affordable Access Program) as outlined in the Briefing Note BN050 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as a revenue over budget option for consideration; and
8. Include alternative 14, a reduction of \$20,000 for Shrub Bed Maintenance Reduction in ROW (cul-de-sacs) as outlined in the Briefing Note BN048 within the proposed 2023/24 Parks & Recreation budget to the Budget Adjustment List as an expense under budget option for consideration.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Not present: Councillor Outhit

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. on February 22, 2023

Iain MacLean
Municipal Clerk