

**REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY
REGULAR COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014
9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair
Councillor Darlene Norman
Councillor Susan MacLeod
Councillor Bruce Inglis
Councillor Brian Fralic
Councillor Raymond Fiske
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Peter Waterman
Kathleen Rafuse, Chief Administrative Officer
Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance
Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Fancy that the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3.0 PRESENTATION(S):

3.1 Service Awards

Mayor Clarke advised that the following were eligible for service awards and thanked them for the indicated years of service. He presented the service awards to the recipients that were present.

Belinda Fisher	5 years
Samantha Frail	5 years
Kelley-Anne Hurley	5 years
Robin McKinnon	5 years
Candice Weare	5 years
Heather Cook	10 years
Jennifer Keating-Hubley	10 years
Sally Wolfe	10 years
Scott Rhyno	20 years
Joan Weagle	20 years
Norm Amirault	30 years
Kathleen Rafuse	30 years

3.2 Winds of Change Presentation

Mayor Christopher Clarke presented Susan Lane, President of the Winds of Change Dramatic Society, with a certificate from the Region congratulating them on their 40th year anniversary.

3.3 SouSho Sci-Fi Festival

Jessica Van Dyne- Evans and Jason Croft, event organizers, for The SouSho Sci-Fi and Fantasy Festival spoke on their upcoming event taking place on the weekend of June 12th to 14th, 2015, in Liverpool.

Mrs. Van Dyne-Evans spoke of the successful Comic Con events from Toronto and Halifax and noted that these events are sold out events and they have been outgrowing their venues.

She added that they have been planning this festival since September 2011, and it is exciting to see that the event is almost here and noted that she hopes this event will continue on as a destination-worthy event for Liverpool, similar to Privateer Days which will be beneficial to the entire community.

Mr. Croft noted that this year's event will be taking place a Queens Place Emera Centre and at the Best Western, but noted that they will be participants who will visit the other businesses in the community. They are already planning ahead to make it an annual event which may grow to various venues throughout the community and proceeded to provide some of the activities that will be taking place over the three day event.

Jessica Van Dyne- Evans and Jason Croft noted that this convention will be designed, organized, staffed, and realized by those passionate and knowledgeable about both geek culture and event co-ordination. They added that organizers have a sense of local pride and community spirit and hopes that the Region and other residents assist and participate with this event.

Following questions and comments by Council, Mayor Clarke thanked Mrs. Van Dyne-Evans and Mr. Croft for their presentation noting that the Region will assist in any way they can to make this event a success, and they left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

3.4 Trestle Trail Bridge Discussion

Mayor Clarke provided an update on the Trestle Trail Bridge and gave an explanation as to why it had to be closed for use. He then reviewed some points made by engineers from AMEC Americas Ltd. following a visual inspection of the structural integrity of the bridge noting that the piers are deteriorated and advised that the bridge should be closed to users until a more thorough examination can be completed in January.

Mayor Clarke noted that the legal advice given to the Region on this matter was to close the bridge to users to prevent any liabilities. He added that just having signage advising users of the risks was not an option. The Region would be liable should something occur.

Councillors expressed their thoughts and concerns on the status of the bridge, most noting that it is in the best interest to everyone if the bridge remains closed until its structural integrity can be better determined following a more comprehensive inspection.

Mayor Clarke asked if anyone in the Public Gallery would like to comment on the Trestle Trail Bridge, they were able to do so at this time.

David Dagley
9 Meadow Pond Lane
Liverpool

Mr. Dagley asked if the AMEC Americas Ltd. engineer's report was available to the public and if so, he would like to have a copy of it. He also recommended that the structure analysis of the Trestle Trail Bridge be based on a structure that has foot traffic only.

Bill Cox
121 Bog Road
White Point

Mr. Cox asked what led up to the latest inspection being completed on the Trestle Trail and asked if there have been any ongoing issues.

Mayor Clarke noted that the last inspection was completed on the bridge in 2002 and it was time to have it rechecked, there were no incidents that precipitated an inspection to be completed.

4.0 TABLING OF PETITIONS:

There were no petitions to come before this meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT SESSION:

John Winters
56 Pierce Point Road
Western Head

Mr. Winters expressed his displeasure with the new Communication Strategy that is up for Council consideration later in the meeting. He feels that the new strategy is one sided, not providing input from the public. He stated that he feels that it is propaganda. He noted that he thinks that the current Communication Strategy is a better document and should remain in place.

Mr. Winters noted that when the public were allowed to provide input on the Planning Strategy and their thoughts prior to amalgamation. It provided many to feel like they had contributed and assisted with the end results.

Leon Robertson
45 College Street
Liverpool

Mr. Robertson commented that Municipal Matters should be distributed in a different to make it accessible to those in the community who do not have computers. He noted that the proposed new Communication Strategy has some good points.

Mr. Robertson commented on the In Camera items which are not brought forward to the public following the Council meetings.

Mayor Clarke noted that the topic of making Municipal Matters more accessible to people was discussed at the last Council meeting and it will be reviewed by staff to find a solution to make it more accessible.

Bill Cox
121 Bog Road
White Point

Mr. Cox commented on the Municipal Fiscal Review noted that this has been an ongoing topic and goes back many years. He added that he is still waiting to see the province to give more financial leeway to municipalities when it comes to negotiating with developers to encourage development in rural areas. He added that he has not seen any changes with the Municipal Government Act since 1988.

Mr. Cox noted that the province needs to assist with the decline in rural areas and take the main focus off Halifax Regional Municipality.

Kathleen Rafuse advised that the Municipal Government Act is currently being reviewed by UNSM, AMA, and the province.

Mr. Cox commented on the Communications Strategy, stressing the importance of accommodating those who do not have access to computers and working with local newspapers and radio stations. It is important to get information out to everyone and use all mediums.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

6.1 Council Minutes – November 25,2014

It was moved by Councillor Norman and seconded by Councillor Waterman:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on November 25, 2014, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

7.0 DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES:

There were no Dangerous or Unsightly Premises issues discussed at this meeting.

8.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

There were no items to be discussed at this meeting from the Economic Development Department.

9.0 CORPORATE SERVICES:

There were no items to be discussed at this meeting from the Corporate Services Department.

10.0 ENGINEERING AND WORKS:

There were no items to discuss from the Engineering and Works Department at this time.

11.0 FINANCE:

11.1 Feedback on Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Waterman:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approves the submission as presented at Council, as representation of their feedback to the unapproved Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Review Consultative Report.

Jennifer Keating- Hubley, Director of Finance, explained that UNSM and AMA will present this submission to the province as a whole compiling the information given from all municipalities. She added that this has not been endorsed by the province yet and most what they will approve if anything from the recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11.2 Pre-Budget Approval Grants to Organizations

It was moved by Councillor Inglis and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a pre-budget amount of \$46,500 for Grants to Organizations, for the upcoming 2015/2016 budget year.

Councillor Norman asked that she recalls in the past year Council discussing possible changes needed to the structure of Grants to Organizations and how funds are distributed, and also to accommodate the groups who normally receive larger amounts of funding on an annual basis.

Councillor Inglis stated that he too thought that this topic was going to be revisited at another time to review possible changes to the Grants to Organizations process.

Kathleen Rafuse noted that amendments were made to the policy that applies to Grants to Organizations last year when the concerns were raised. She added that she and Norm Amirault are working on ways to try and find funding for special events.

Jennifer Keating-Hubley advised that groups applying for this program still need to apply to be accountable for the funding and the larger sums of money still come out of the \$46,500 amount.

Councillor MacLeod noted that this topic has come up many times over the years and that it is time that a decision should be made on how Council deals with Grants to Organizations. She added that perhaps some funding for special events be considered Economic Development and budgeted for accordingly.

Councillor Fralic spoke of concerns from the groups who receive the larger amounts need to apply for other funding grants by April and they have to prove that they are receiving municipal funds in order to get the other grants. He noted that there should be something on a separate budget line showing the secured funding.

Mayor Clarke suggested that the Finance Committee meet to review the Grants to Organization process, but it will not affect this motion.

Councillor Inglis recommended that members of Council should sit down and discuss this matter and to bring back possible suggestions to Staff for review.

Question was called and MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

12.0 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

12.1 Recreation Facility Assistance Grant Applications

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve a Community Recreation Assistance Program grant of \$ 675.00 to the West Queens Recreation Association to assist with the costs of implementing a floor hockey program at the West Queens Recreation Centre, to be funded from the Community Grants and Programs budget line of the Recreation and Community Facilities Department.

Norm Amirault, Director of Recreation and Community Facilities, explained how this request meets criteria and noted that there are a group of young adults who are interested in playing floor hockey on a regular basis at the facility.

Councillor Norman stated that this will enable West Queens Recreation to have the equipment onsite for future users as well.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

13.0 PLANNING:

There were no matters to be discussed at this meeting from the Planning Department.

14.0 QUEENS PLACE EMERA CENTRE:

There were no matters discussed at this meeting from Queens Place Emera Centre.

15.0 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Chair was turned over to Councillor Waterman at this time.

15.1 South Shore Housing Action Coalition Board

It was moved by Councillor Waterman and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the Nominating Committee recommend to the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality the appointment of Councillor Susan MacLeod to the South Shore Housing Action Coalition Board representing the Region of Queens Municipality effective immediately, for a term to expire on October 31, 2016.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

15.2 Appointment to South Shore Regional Enterprise Network Board

It was moved by Councillor Waterman and seconded by Councillor Fiske:

THAT the Nominating Committee recommend to the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality the appointment of Councillor Darlene Norman to the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network Board effective immediately, for a two year term.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair was turned back to Mayor Clarke at this time.

16.0 OTHER:

16.1 Region of Queens Municipality Communications Strategy

It was moved by Councillor Fiske and seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the "Communications Strategy, Region of Queens Municipality" dated December 9, 2014.

Councillor Norman commented that this communication strategy did not require input from the public because it is something that has been created for Staff and Council to follow on how to get the word out that this is a good place to live and to do business. She added that this is a working document and can be changed when necessary.

Heather Cook, Community Development Coordinator, noted that this new strategy does provide the public opportunity to provide input to certain matters and noted that some of the suggestions in the strategy came from public involvement with the past communication strategy, the transition Team report and the Three Pillars discussions.

Councillor Fralic feels that Council should have the ability to go out and spread their message to the public and need to find better ways to do so. He added that he feels that this new strategy does not address all ways possible for Council to communicate to the public and he does not support it.

Councillor Fancy noted that the new strategy gives direction as to what needs to be done to move forward.

Mayor Clarke stated that Council is embarking on a journey to try and move forward to better communicate Region matters. He noted that this Council has come a long way from how communication was completed when they first began.

Councillor Fiske thanked staff for her work on the new plan and noted that there is always room for improvement and Council will do better in communication as time goes on.

Councillor Waterman noted that this strategy is a living document which can be updated if there is a need.

Councillor Inglis noted that this document is a guide line to assist in moving forward with two way communication. He added that improvements have already have been happening over the past little while noting how well the Trestle Trail Bridge closure was communicated.

Councillor Inglis then asked if the option of live streaming the meetings is still being reviewed as a way to keep the public up to date on Council matters.

Mayor Clarke noted that Heather Cook is looking into this. He then noted that he feels that Town Hall meetings would be worthwhile to try again to create public engagement.

Councillor Fralic noted that Town Hall meetings may not be the best way to communicate with the public as many people do not want to speak their opinions in a public forum. There should be other current ways to assist the public to communicate their concerns and the strategy should address current tools available.

MOTION CARRIED with 7 for and 1 against.

17.0 IN-CAMERA ITEMS:

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Waterman that the proceedings go "In-Camera" at 1115 a.m. to discuss the following:

- 17.1 Lease of Municipal Property
- 17.2 Sale of Municipal Property

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

It was moved by Councillor Fralic and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the proceedings come out of "In-Camera" at 11:35 a.m.

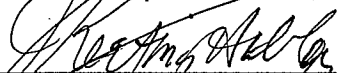
MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

18.0 ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Mayor Christopher Clarke, Chair



Jennifer Keating-Hubley, Director of Finance



Bobbi Jo Goulden, Recording / Management Secretary

Date approved: December 23, 2014

SouSho Sci-Fi Festival

June 12-14, 2015

at Queen's Place Emera Center

From ancient, sword-bearing soldiers favoured by the Gods, to gunslinging cowboys defeating entire outlaw gangs, to aliens who are faster than speeding bullets and able to leap tall buildings in single bounds, we have always loved a hero.

We love them because they give us hope that **we** can be heroes, too. And it can happen for **anyone!**

In comic books, our heroes come from all imaginable backgrounds, and use their diversity to teach us that adversity can unleash inner strength.

Orphaned children may identify with the Batman, while those who've lost their homes may be inspired by Superman.

Heck, *anybody* can get bitten by a spider. And maybe, just maybe, if you concentrate reeeeeaaaaal hard, you might just lift that pen off the table using nothing but the Force!

Everyone has always loved a hero, and now they are showing it. Comic book movies are a multi-billion dollar business (with almost all of them being blockbuster hits), while TV airs shows based on comic characters, comic retailers, makeup artists, even people who *dress up* like comic book characters.

Such big and small screen success is a Hollywood extension of the ground-level trailblazing of Comic Cons. From world-class cities like Toronto and New York to local venues like Halifax, Cons are in a period of unchecked expansion.

Despite their physical growth, they still cannot keep pace with their popularity growth and sell out – often in advance – creating a tidal wave of tourism (and a flood of tourism dollars) that benefits the entire host town.

It is our vision to bring this energy to the South Shore and help celebrate the joy of geekdom!

This energy, so typical of fan culture, is its own source. It requires only a focal point to flow freely towards. In our case, SouSho is that focus.

Harnessing the surging fan power of geekdom certainly offers many benefits; however, catering to a now-driven market that is forever upgrading to the next big thing would be an effort in futility to the under-prepared.

Fortunately, SouSho, as an undertaking, is the very eye of the perfect storm of event planning.

Thanks in large part to long-standing and extremely successful occasions like Privateer Days, Liverpool has a reputation for hosting destination-worthy events; and we wish to build upon this.

Professional coordinators with years of experience in the event planning field have joined forces with some of the architects of other

cons, as well as members of KAG Kanada and other select groups within the geek & nerd communities to construct this one-of-a-kind Festival.

The overwhelming depth of these creators' pooled experience puts SouSho in a position to be not only successful, but enduring as well.

This expectation is borne out by the support that the Fest is already enjoying: in terms of an ever-growing fanbase, an impressive list of experts, panelists, and guests (including multiple Star Trek personalities), cross-promotion from other events and organizations, and other local businesses' willingness to join in as sponsors.

We, in turn, intend to highlight local vendors and creators. We will also offer various avenues to connect with a new consumer market that may subscribe to the “see local, buy local” philosophy.

And this new market could be almost anyone, since almost everyone has some sci-fi or superhero knowledge.

“Beam me up, Scotty”

“Look! Up in the sky! It’s a bird ... it’s a plane ...it’s SUPERMAN!”

“A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...”

These are quotes that nearly everyone knows by heart, can instantly recognize, and that have the power to transport people to a different time and place.

For 3 days in June of 2015, we want Liverpool, NS to be that time and that place!

This is because, As a group, those of us involved with SouSho have a deep sense of local pride. It is this shared sense of community spirit that initially bound us together, and has fueled our efforts ever since.

In 2011, we began organizing fundraising events for our local grade school. One of our more ambitious projects during this time was to create a community drive-in theatre which, in turn, opened the door to other events, including a small-scale Comic Book Convention!.

Fast forward to today, and the school has closed, but we want to continue to bring our events to the area. With the exception of our scaled-down convention for the school, SouSho will be unlike anything our area has ever seen: in terms of scope, scale, and content. This will be a convention designed, organized, staffed, and realized by those passionate and knowledgeable about both geek culture AND event co-ordination! .

As mentioned, our group is underpinned by a common sense of community pride. And, really, what event fosters a greater sense of community than a comics convention? Where no one is from the wrong place, race, or planet; no one wears the wrong colors, brands, or costumes; where impossible turns to actual; and, most of all, where being 'super' simply means being true to yourself.

It may have started with a school, but our mission was never about a structure. As from the beginning, we at SouSho are about family, friends, and neighbors... and giving them the opportunity to experience excitement and adventure in our own back yard.

We ask that you assist us in our venture, and to join in it! If you are nearby, stop by. If you aren't, we have ways you can still be a part of the action*. Let's work together to help the kids of our old school - and everyone around us - rediscover local fun, and not be left to wonder what happened to their sense of wonder.