



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 12.2.3**  
**Community Planning & Economic Development**  
**April 18, 2019**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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For Jenny Lugar, Chair, Heritage Advisory Committee

**DATE:** March 29, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **City Historian for Halifax Regional Municipality**

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**ORIGIN**

Motion from the March 27, 2019 meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Item 10.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM By-law No. H-200 - Heritage Property By-law

4. The [Heritage Advisory] Committee shall, within the time limits prescribed by Council or the [Heritage Property] Act, advise the Region respecting:

.....  
(k) the promotion and interpretation of heritage properties;

.....  
(q) and other matters conducive to the effective carrying out of the intent and purpose of the Act.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report to examine the appointment of a Halifax Historian Laureate to promote the cultural heritage of the Municipality, and that the position be developed with a mandate, objectives, and terms of office similar to that of the Halifax Poet Laureate.

**BACKGROUND**

At the request of a Committee member, at their January 31, 2019 meeting, the Heritage Advisory Committee held a discussion on the feasibility and need for the creation of a city historian position for the Municipality. Following that discussion, members were directed to craft a motion to bring to the next regular meeting for the Committee's consideration. A request for consideration form (Attachment 1) was brought forward for the March 27, 2019 meeting of the Committee.

**DISCUSSION**

At their March 27, 2019 meeting, members of the Heritage Advisory Committee discussed the proposed motion concerning a request to examine the feasibility of a City Historian position for the Municipality. It was explained that the rationale behind the position would be to serve to promote and educate staff and the public on all matters relating to the heritage of the Municipality. This would be similar to positions seen in other jurisdictions, with Calgary being cited as a specific example. It was further suggested that this might be examined within the larger context of the Regional Museum Strategy.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any financial implications would be identified in a future staff report.

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

None identified.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Heritage Advisory Committee are open to the public. The agenda, reports, and minutes of the Committee are posted online at Halifax.ca.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Committee did not provide alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1** – Request for Consideration Form - March 27, 2019

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: David Perusse, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk 902-490-6732

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## Item No. 10.1

<b>Request for Heritage Advisory Committee Consideration</b>		
<p><b>X Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b></p>
<p><b>Date of Meeting: March 27, 2019</b></p>		
<p><b>Subject: City Historian for Halifax Regional Municipality</b></p>		
<p><b>Motion for Heritage Advisory Committee to Consider:</b></p> <p>That the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report to examine the appointment of a Halifax Historian Laureate to promote the cultural heritage of the Municipality, and that the position be developed with a mandate, objectives, and terms of office similar to that of the Halifax Poet Laureate.</p>		
<p><b>Reason:</b></p> <p>To explore creating a position that will serve as a promoter and educator of all aspects relating to HRM history and heritage. HRM needs a leadership voice to open positive dialogue into an often controversial historical past for the purposes of learning for the future. This is a fitting time to create such a role to mark the 270<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Halifax.</p>		
<p><b>Outcome Sought:</b></p> <p>A motion from the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee requesting as staff report to examine the appointment of a Halifax Historian Laureate.</p>		
<p><i>William Breckenridge</i></p>		<p><i>Heritage Advisory Committee</i></p>