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Item No. 9.1.2
Youth Advisory Committee
June 20, 2019

TO: Co-Chairs and Members of the Youth Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed**

Denise Schofield, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 10, 2019

SUBJECT: **Youth Advisory Committee Work Plan**

ORIGIN

On January 16, 2019, the Youth Advisory Committee was established as a project. The Committee had its first meeting on March 21, 2019.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order 2017-011-GOV respecting the Youth Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Youth Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee receive the Youth Advisory Committee Work Plan for Committee activities from June 2019 through to March 2020, attached as Attachment A to this report.

BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2018 Regional Council authorized staff to conduct a pilot project to re-establish a Youth Advisory Committee. The pilot project supported a two phased approach. Phase one involved working with a leadership team of HRM staff and community partners to develop foundational materials, and to develop an engagement strategy to recruit committee members that were representative of the HRM youth population. Phase 2 involved standing up the committee, working with the Committee through several meetings, and an evaluation of the pilot project.

The recruitment was conducted in late Fall 2018 separate from the larger Fall public appointment recruitment, to allow for all engagement and communications efforts to be focused on soliciting youth applications. At the close of the nomination period 97 applications were received. Vetting of the applications took several months and it involved a staff review board to review all 97 applications and to present a short-list to the Executive Standing Committee. The review board was also directed to conduct interviews of the short-listed applicants and to recommend a slate of applicants and alternates for appointment.

The Committee was appointed by Regional Council on February 12, 2019.

DISCUSSION

The first meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee was held on March 21, 2019. At that meeting it was determined that a workplan would be developed. The workplan is drafted until March 2020, to coincide with the current terms of the appointed members. Staff facilitated a workshop designed to draw out ideas and themes that were of interest of members by using various activities. The results from the preliminary work shop are as follows:

Group 1: Municipal Information/ Civics

- Common knowledge skills information
- Election knowledge
- Getting youth involved with voting
- Engaging underprivileged communities
- Education

Group 2: Transportation/Public Transit

- Electric car, bus fleets, charging stations related infrastructure
- Public transit accessibility and safety
- Transit improvements including more bus stops and safety
- Ride sharing (e.g. Uber/Lyft)
- Public transportation, particularly for youth
- Free bus passes for ages 14-19

Group 3: Accessibility and Public Spaces

- Accessibility to buildings
- Accessibility: built space, transit
- Queer spaces

Group 4: Indigenous Matters

- North American Indigenous Games 2020
- More awareness around Indigenous youth holistic health

Group 5: The Environment

- Environmental issues / racism
- Climate change awareness
- Recycling
- Supporting youth initiatives acting on environmental issues (e.g. iMatter Enrich Project)
- Alternatives for single-use plastics

Group 6: Mental Health

- Public Safety/ Safe spaces
- Mental health outlet for men / end the stigma
- Mental health support
- Mental health services, particularly for high school & university students

At their April meeting the Youth Advisory Committee had the ability to take the time and reflect on learnings from the Youth Summit that they had hosted on April 7, 2019. In addition, they reviewed the results from their workshop, and refined the above noted groups into the following potential Committee discussions:

- Environmental racism, engaging marginalized communities – education, environment initiatives – youth-led, recycling and single use plastics, climate change, electric vehicles
- Election knowledge and voting
- North American Indigenous Games
- Public Transit infrastructure & built spaces, electric vehicle infrastructure, transit: free passes for 15-18 year olds, transit safety
- Queer spaces, safe spaces
- Community Mobilization Teams and community safety

Staff took the results from this discussion and have compiled a workplan (see Attachment A) for the Youth Advisory Committee to provide feedback and recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee. As outlined in the Youth Services Plan, the work conducted by the Youth Advisory Committee should be self guided, to support a for-youth by-youth approach. In addition, the Committee has expressed the desire to have meetings to discuss items, but also to serve as a link between HRM youth populations and the Municipality. As opposed to traditional HRM advisory committees this Committee is committed to outreach and engagement, which will occur outside the regularly scheduled meetings.

Changes to the Committee workplan may occur based on issues that arise, or requests from staff or the public. These items will be brought to the Co-Chairs for review and possible addition to the Committee. Substantive changes to the workplan will be circulated to the Committee, and communicated to the Executive Standing Committee by way of an information report.

What is Required of Members of the Youth Advisory Committee?

- Review the draft workplan.
- Are there items or themes that should be dealt with in advance? (Is the order logical.)
- Are there items or themes that you feel are missing from the work plan that you would like to have added for discussion and/or inclusion?
- Are there items that do not need to be on your work plan?

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications have been identified. If financial implications arise through the work plan, they will be noted in future staff reports as part of the approval of specific initiatives.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risks have been identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Youth Advisory Committee hosted a Youth Summit to gain a broader understanding on Youth in an HRM context. The summit was held at the Halifax Central Library on April 7, 2019 and had over 100 participants. The Summit featured a world café exercise where all attendees were able to interface with HRM staff in small groups to discuss concerns with HRM services. Some of these learnings may be incorporated into the larger Youth Advisory Committee workplan.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No implications have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Youth Advisory Committee Work Plan June 2019 through to March 2020.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca> then choose the appropriate Standing Committee and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6456

YAC Work Plan June 2019 through to March 2020

<p>June Meeting (June 20, 2019)</p> <p>Municipal Clerk's Office Civics 101 Municipal Elections</p> <p>Work Plan Confirmation</p>
<p>Summer Meeting - July/August If required</p> <p>** Public Appointment Policy Consultation</p>
<p>September Meeting (September 19, 2019)</p> <p>Parks and Recreation – Friendly Place/ Friendly Faces Strategy</p> <p>Introduction to HRM Office of Energy & Environment HRM Climate Plan (HalifACT 2050) Presentation</p>
<p>October Meeting (October 17, 2019)</p> <p>North American Indigenous Games – Presentation</p> <p>Introduction to HRM Solid Waste Diversion Program, and Multi-Residential</p> <p>Youth Services Plan – Report on Proposed Engagement Strategy</p>
<p>November Meeting (November 21, 2019)</p> <p>Introduction to Halifax Transit Transit Planning – Discussion</p> <p>Youth Live Determine the 2020 Meeting Schedule</p>
<p>January Meeting (TBD)</p> <p>Youth Employment Opportunities with Halifax Regional Municipality</p>
<p>February Meeting (TBD)</p> <p>Youth Services Plan – Mid Point Check-in</p>
<p>March Meeting (TBD)</p> <p>Mental Health Presentation (TBC) 2020 Municipal Elections – Youth Engagement - Consultation</p>