

Municipal Role in Supporting Food Security

Item No. 12.1.5

Community Planning & Economic
Development Standing Committee

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Origins

May 2017 CPED motion seeking options to support HRM's participation in issue of community food insecurity through:

- Partnership with Halifax Food Policy Alliance (HFPA),
- Food charter & strategy for HRM,
- Study of vulnerable communities & asset mapping, and
- Exploration of barriers, opportunities & enablers

Food Security in HRM

... everyone has access to enough healthy, safe food through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice...

Food security is a major challenge:



However, HRM is also:

- Rich in resources with a long history of food production & self-reliance,
- Optimal for small scale agriculture, and
- Fertile in people, knowledge and creativity.

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Evolving Role

- Around the world, municipalities are stepping up to develop sustainable food systems & increase access to healthy food (Milan Pact, Attach C)
- Growing number of HRM policies & initiatives that impact food security (Attach D)
- HRM's role is maturing, recognizing that this complex issue requires collective action

Collective Action: The HFPA

We all eat. BUT ACCESS TO GOOD FOOD ISN'T EQUAL FOR EVERYONE.

- In 2013 HRM, NSHA & EAC came together around food policy, evolved into an alliance across sectors of the food system
- Wealth of research, expertise, jurisdictions & networks
- Affirm membership: commit, share resources and champion SUPPORTING HEALTHY CHANGE, LEADING INFORMED ACTION & CONVENING COMMUNITY



Work Together: from Charter to Action

- **Endorse Draft Charter:** call to action based on principles of Social Justice, Health & Wellbeing, Environment, Economy and Celebration.
- **Partner with HFPA** to lead the development of the Food Action Plan: unify & coordinate efforts to achieve meaningful change.
- **Food Action Plan:** outline actions, set targets and commit resources.
- **Contribute \$60,000, plus in-kind** support, towards the development of the Action Plan

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Build Capacity

- Progress municipal opportunities, enablers and barriers (Attach I),
- Expand on *HRM 4 Food and Food 4 HRM* staff workshop and build internal capacity,
- Enrich HRM's *Food Action webpage, Food For All asset map/app, Community Food Toolkit, wellbeing index*, etc.
- Budget in 2020/21 to support food initiatives.

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- Affirm HRM's membership on the Halifax Food Policy Alliance (HFPA) Steering Committee and endorse the HFPA terms of reference, as contained in Attachment A;
- Endorse in principle the Halifax Food Charter, as set out in Attachment B, as the guiding direction for preparing a Halifax Food Action Plan;
- Direct the CAO, or designate, to negotiate and execute, on terms acceptable to the CAO, a contribution agreement with the HFPA (or designated member organization), to provide a financial contribution of up to \$60,000, plus in-kind support, to be used towards the development of a Halifax Food Action Plan, contingent upon the HFPA (or designated member organization) obtaining sufficient commitments from other sources to fund and support the project;
- Direct the CAO to consider community food security as part of the 2019/2020 Council Priority Outcome: Healthy, Liveable Communities deliverable to develop a community well-being index; and
- Direct the CAO to include funds in the 2020/21 operating budget to support initiatives flowing from the Halifax Food Action Plan.

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