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Item No. 9.1.1
Youth Advisory Committee
April 15, 2024

TO: Members of the Youth Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: **ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Cyril Jurdak O'Brien, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee

DATE: March 22nd, 2024

SUBJECT: **Youth Advisory Committee – 2023 Annual Report**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Initiated by the Youth Advisory Committee through the Legislative Assistant.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 2017-011-GOV, *Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee in Halifax Regional Municipality*.

17. The Chair, or designate, may present the annual report to a meeting of the Executive Standing Committee.

18. The Committee may make reports to the Executive Standing Committee on the activities of the Committee as necessary, or as requested, together with such other presentations that the Committee may deem advisable.

BACKGROUND

On January 16, 2018, Halifax Regional Council approved Administrative Order 2017-011-GOV, *Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee Administrative Order*, to establish the Youth Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to advise the Municipality on the impact of municipal policies, programs, and services on youth.

The current membership is available on Halifax.ca

DISCUSSION

2023 Youth Advisory Committee Work Plan

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) identified 3 priorities for 2023 and received presentations from community members, groups and organizations, and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff to better inform the Committee on issues around these priorities.

The YAC approved their 2023 Work Plan on June 15, 2023. The 2023 Work Plan was subsequently approved by the Executive Standing Committee on June 26, 2023.

The three priorities for learning and action were specified in the 2023 Work Plan:

Priority 1: Supporting Youth Well-Being, with an emphasis on physical and social supports and resources for youth.

The following topics were identified as being especially important:

- Mental Health supports and resources
- Social and safe spaces for youth
- Newcomer youth supports
- Youth self-reliance

Priority 2: Climate Action – HalifACT

Committee members will receive presentations from Business Units/Organizations.

On January 19, 2023, Joanna Bell, Community Engagement Manager spoke to the committee about the history, methods of engagement, and current action areas of the Ecology Action Centre, and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. The Committee provided input on strategies for engaging youth, including visiting schools and partnering with social media influencers to increase reach on social media platforms.

Priority 3: Youth Perspectives and Engagement on Municipal Elections and HRM's Social Policies, with emphasis on youth involvement in elections, food security, housing, and the Community Safety Business Unit.

Summary of Activities

The Youth Advisory Committee's business for the period covering January 19, 2023, to November 16, 2023, included the following:

- 3 presentations from members of the public
- 3 Committee led discussions
- 12 staff presentations
- 4 staff updates
- 1 motion passed

The activities of the Youth Advisory Committee were guided by the Administrative Order 2017-011- GOV, Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee Administrative Order, and by the Youth Advisory Committee 2023 Work Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications identified.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of up to twelve youth members and two staff members. The agenda, reports, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Summary of Motions Passed

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Adam Huffman, Community Developer - Youth Section, Parks & Recreation
Cyril Jurdak O'Brien, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT 1

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED

June 15, 2023

The Youth Advisory Committee received staff presentations from HRM'S Planning and Development department on the Municipality's affordable housing initiatives, the short-term rental registry and By-Law M-200, Standards for Residential Occupancies, at their February 16, April 20, and May 18, 2023 meetings.

The Youth Advisory Committee considered the staff presentations and expressed interest in forming a recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee related to communication strategies for By-Law M-200, Standards for Residential Occupancies, with an emphasis on youth, first-time renters and newcomers. The Committee considered former presentations, projects, and discussions around housing and approved the recommendation outlined in the report dated June 15, 2023.

Motion approved that the Youth Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report in consultation with the Youth Advisory Committee to develop a communication strategy on By-Law M-200, Respecting Standards for Residential Occupancies, and other housing related guidelines targeted to youth, first time renters, and newcomers.