



**SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
August 13, 2025**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Billy Gillis, Vice Chair
Councillor Laura White
Jeff Ransome
Leah Batstone
Natasha Chestnut
Ross Jefferson
Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Alison Gillan

STAFF: Billy Comer, Manager, Events
Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Special Events Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 11, 2025

MOVED by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the minutes of June 11, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Jeff Ransome

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 7.3.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Davis Cup World Group I tie – Tennis Canada

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Anne-Marie Gardner, Kate MacKeigan, Heather Walker, Carole MacDonald, Sebastien Labelle, Cathy Fearon, Amanda Rhodenizer, Bill McKiggan, Akamsha Abraham, Mya Gagnon, Jody Zinner, Neil Balan, Nouman Ali, Robyn McNeil, Melanie Wilson, Carolyn van Gurp, Alan Surovell, Timothy Bood, Emma FitzGerald, Alyssa Fulop, Meghann Kerr, Tamar Eylon, James Bryant, Isaac Saney, Hani Abuelkhair
- Presentation dated August 13, 2025

Claudine Ferragut, Tennis Canada gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

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7.3.2 The Gifts We Carry: Youth Empowerment Event Honouring Residential School Survivors - National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated August 13, 2025

Kaila Johnston and Andree Gracie, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.3 Taekwondo Canada National Championships – Taekwondo Canada

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated August 13, 2025
- Handout dated August 6, 2025

Brayson Snow, Taekwondo Nova Scotia and Dave Harris, Taekwondo Canada gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.4 2026 Karate Canada U21 & Senior National Championships – Karate Canada

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated August 13, 2025

Chris Bright and Jeff Murphy, Karate Canada gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Billy Comer, Manager, Events and Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2025/2026 MLSER 2nd Intake Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report dated June 19, 2025

Billy Comer, Manager, Events and Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Jeff Ransome

THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council approve total funding in the amount of \$175,000 from the Community and Events Reserve (Q621), as detailed in Table 1 of the staff report dated June 19, 2025.

MOVED by Jeff Ransome, seconded Sue Utek

THAT the motion be amended that the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council approve the award of \$50,000 for the Davis Cup World Group I tie based on Special Events Advisory Committee's evaluation for economic merits as a tourism event.

Comer responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

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MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Jeff Ransome

THAT the motion be amended that the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council increase the grant award for the Taekwondo Canada National Championships to \$50,000.

Comer and Dillman responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Councillor White

THAT the motion be amended that the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council increase the grant award for the 2026 Karate Canada U21 & Senior National Championships to \$20,000.

Comer responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the motion be amended that Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council decline the grant award of \$75,000.00 to The Gifts We Carry: Youth Empowerment Event Honouring Residential School Survivors as the application does not meet the eligibility guidelines.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Jeff Ransome

THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council approve total funding from the Community and Events Reserve (Q621), as follows:

- 1. Award \$50,000 for the Davis Cup World Group I tie based on Special Events Advisory Committee's evaluation for economic merits as a tourism event;**
- 2. Increase the grant award for the Taekwondo Canada National Championships to \$50,000;**
- 3. Increase the grant award for the 2026 Karate Canada U21 & Senior National Championships to \$20,000; and**
- 4. Decline the grant award of \$75,000.00 to The Gifts We Carry: Youth Empowerment Event Honouring Residential School Survivors as the application does not meet the eligibility guidelines.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

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11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be Determined

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant