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Item No. 6
Halifax Regional Council
April 4, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Africville Visioning Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 11.4.3 of the April 6, 2021, Regional Council meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report that will look at developing a collaborative process that will ultimately create an Africville Visioning Process. Africville Visioning process should include, but will not be limited to:

1. Determine a cooperative working partnership between HRM and community partners and organizations that are working on behalf of the interest of descendants.
2. Engage with other organizations, businesses, and levels of Government whose interest could potentially impact Africville lands and/or Africville descendants to determine how they can support the Africville Visioning Process and its outcomes.
3. Reviewing the 2010 Africville Agreement and determining which commitments have been met, where further action is required, and whether these past commitments address the current desires of the community
4. Identifying all municipal led or partnered projects and initiatives that have a direct impact on the lands at Africville, lands surrounding Africville, and its users (current/future) to understand the full effect they will have on the Africville lands.
5. Developing a comprehensive, co-facilitated public engagement process in partnership with Africville descendants, Africville focused organizations, and community partners that will inform the outcomes of the visioning process.
6. Re-visiting the 2003 Bayne Street Master Plan, and work with partners to collaborate to reimagine the Master Plan that would include land specifically dedicated to descendants of Africville and/or uses that would be supported by descendants, community members or organizations who broadly represent the interest of Africville descendants.
7. Examine the possibility of using the Africville Visioning Process to address the ongoing class action court proceedings against HRM and working with claimants and descendants to address their concerns outside of the court system.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 38, s. 2 provides:

s. 2 The purpose of this Act is to

- (a) give broad authority to the Council, including broad authority to pass by-laws, and respect its right to govern the Municipality in whatever ways the Council considers appropriate within the jurisdiction given to it.
- (b) enhance the ability of the Council to respond to present and future issues in the Municipality; and
- (c) recognize that the functions of the Municipality are to
 - (i) provide good government,
 - (ii) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality, and
 - (iii) develop and maintain safe and viable communities

BACKGROUND

Visioning will help to proactively address historic wrongs, and establish a long-term vision for Africville, rather than engaging the African Nova Scotian (ANS) community only when other project priorities arise in the area. This will assist with addressing long-standing discrimination and fostering positive working relationships between the ANS community, specifically Africville, and the Municipality.

Developing a comprehensive master plan for the use and development of the former Africville lands and surrounding area, including potential changes to the transportation network, park spaces and new development opportunities (non-profit and private), with input from the Africville community, will demonstrate the Municipality's commitment to continuing to work with the ANS community.

DISCUSSION

The following is a brief update on activities of the Africville visioning process up to and including February 2023.

- To date D&I/ANSAIO have created an RFP to hire a facilitator for Phase one of the Africville Visioning process; and are now working with a procurement support representative and HRM Legal to finalize the process.
- Phase one of the visioning process has a commitment from The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), for funding of the facilitator through their contracting control framework (CCF).
- We anticipate the commencement of community consultations for late Spring 2023.

This project has many components and will require intensive community engagement. The process was delayed as we worked out all the necessary steps required to move forward in acquiring a facilitator for this work. An update will be brought back to Regional Council following the community consultations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial supports related to hiring of a facilitator for phase one will be covered by ACOA's CCF Fund.

Financial supports related to facilitation and consultation sessions will be covered by D&I/ANSAIO and are included in its 2023/24 budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable at time of this report.

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.

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