



Subject: *Donation Fund and Acceptance of Donations Policy*
To: Corporate and Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: May 15, 2024
Related Motions: N/A
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Approved by: Kim Ramsay, CAO

Summary

There is an opportunity to financially assist an East Hants non-profit organization. RBC has contacted the municipality and indicated it is willing to donate \$1,500 to the Municipality, with the intention that these funds are then granted by the municipality to the non-profit entity.

Council policy “Acceptance of Donations” is relevant to this matter. It accompanies this report.

Financial Impact Statement

The net financial impact to the municipality would be zero.

Recommendation

Staff recommend Council approve a Donation Fund for this purpose and a grant for the same amount of funds raised.

Recommended Motion

Move that Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommend that Council approve the creation of an East Hants Youth Links Donation Fund. And that annually a grant will be provided to East Hants Youth Links in the amount of funds collected from outside parties.

Background

RBC has indicated it is willing to fund the East Hants Youth link with \$1,500, via a donation to an East Hants Municipal donation fund.

The Council Policy on “Acceptance of Donations” notes the following:

Section 1.1 “Donations must be for purposes consistent with the Municipality’s mandate, programs, services and activities and must be deemed to be in the public interest of the Municipality”.

Section 3.3 “Council may establish Donations Funds for the collection and use of donations.”

Section 3.3 “Donations of cash designated for specific purposes will only be accepted by the Municipality where Council has authorized the specific purpose or a fundraising campaign and where the necessary Donation Fund has been established.”

Section 3.4 “Contributions from a donation fund to an organization or individual is considered a grant and will be reported as such.”

Section 4.1 “The Municipality cannot facilitate a “conduit” relationship between donors and an organization which is independent of the Municipality. This means that the Municipality’s authority to issue tax receipts cannot be used to provide an unrelated organization with the ability to provide contributors with a tax benefit.”

East Hants Youth Links has had a close working relationship with the Municipality for several years. It is also one of a few non-profit organizations which benefits from an annual Community Partnership Fund grant from the municipality. It is an important part of the municipalities strategic plan key strategies of a “Strong Community”. East Hants will continue to meet with and review annual reports and programs of East Hants Youth Links and will direct these dollars in keeping with the strategic plan.

The following was comments were provided by East Hants Youth Links:

East Hants Youth Links Youth Development Society has been operating since 2016. We are a non-profit organization whose mandate is to enable kids ages 10-18 to be more active and to provide a safe inclusive place for kids to grow and connect with their community.

We sponsor free skates, free swims (when the Elmsdale pool was open), HIIT workouts, learn to run programs, crafting and painting sessions after school at Riverview Educational Centre in Milford, hikes, cooking classes, babysitting, self-defense and home alone courses plus more.

The programming is open to all children so no one is left out and most programs are completely free or a nominal fee to ensure they attend a course.

A pdf file is attached with this report of the EHYL website listing its Mission, Vision and Core Values.

Links:

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ehyouthlinks?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Website Page: <https://www.ehyouthlinks.ca>

It should be noted that a very similar matter has been occurring for several years. RBC has donated to the municipality and these funds then granted to the Enfield, Elmsdale Lion’s Den Playground.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

Alternatives

Council may decide not to create the donation fund or approve the grant.
