

**Village of Haines Junction
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2025**

Present:

Mayor Strand
Councillor Busche
Councillor Mackinnon
Councillor McPhie
Councillor Sundbo

Absent:

CAO Fairbank, Recorder Ogden

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm

Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory

Mayor Strand acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Adoption of Agenda

#271-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion #271-25 was **CARRIED**.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Old Business

#272-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting go in camera at 2:30

Motion #272-25 was **CARRIED**

#273-25 It was moved and seconded

THAT the meeting come out of camera at 4:30, and the group will reconvene after a one-hour break

Motion #273-25 was **CARRIED**

Recreation, Arts, Culture and Environment Grant Program – Strategic Planning Session

- What internal strengths can this program build on?
 - Council experience with current funding programs
 - Staff also have experience with program delivery and administering programs
 - Council is eager to support what is going on in the community
 - Facilities can be used in events
 - Current funding, while limited, is reliable
 - Direction in OCP and Council's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan

- What internal limitations do we need to be mindful of in planning this program?
 - Staff capacity
 - Competing obligations/priorities
 - Funding is limited
 - Accessing funding – takes staff time
 - Consensus on needs/priorities
 - Understanding what our demographic is (not just groups, but people, including CAFN)

- What opportunities exist, external to the organization, that can help this program succeed?
 - More engagement by community in the work of Council
 - Very diverse community
 - Volunteerism is strong, can wane
 - Long term residents, established families to new people
 - Location - draws in events

- What challenges exist, external to the organization, that could affect the success of the program?
 - Greater demand than available resources
 - Don't know how many groups are out there, and what their needs/goals are, and how to fit program to needs
 - Groups from outside the community may want to access funding

- What contributions to recreation/arts/culture/environment would you like to see this program realize in 3-4 years?
 - Engaged citizens for the betterment of the community
 - A consistent, longer-term, program that can be relied upon as an ongoing funding opportunity
 - Assisting a group to offer a long-term event
 - Assisting groups with developing longer term programming so they can reach their goals
 - Security – what is required to access funds.
 - Encourage resident participation – key, want community to get involved

- Program delivery is streamlined – less onerous on Council, Committee-led, Council retains oversight
 - Accessibility, low barrier – ease to access funding, not just for larger groups
 - Bring community groups together – foster collaboration/coordination, groups help each other, foster connections
 - Council could designate themes with higher priority for funding on an annual basis – strategic direction to be included in the funding envelope
- What achievements would make this program a success?
 - Brought the community together because it was easier for residents to put on their programs and activities
 - Brings groups together
 - A picture of all the community together
 - Groups become more self-sufficient, gain traction from grants that enable them to eventually offer independently e.g. Alsek Music Festival
 - Contribute to thriving businesses, economic development
 - Supporting children in their development, individual growth because of the groups that are being funded
- What concerns does this program need to address?
 - Equality, not just certain groups are being awarded money (no nepotism!)
 - Funding – don't want to draw down budget more than can be sustained, spend wisely
 - Transparency – how grants are awarded
 - Staff capacity – streamlined process, includes reporting requirements, succinct application form
 - Unfunded projects – desire to avoid – spread available funding across eligible projects
 - Set maximum amounts for certain categories
 - Avoid duplicating other funding envelopes
 - Right sized grants – scaled to impact grant has on #people
 - Encourage applicants to find other sources of funding – matching funding (similar to lotteries)
 - Thresholds / levels of access to funds
- Next steps
 - Bring draft program outline to the September 10 , 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting

Adjournment

#274-25 It was moved and seconded
 THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:30.

Motion #274-25 was **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.



Mayor Diane Strand



CAO David Fairbank

