Recommendation:

1. That the Emergency and Community Services Committee (E&CS) appoint an E&CS member to serve on the Hamilton Historical Board.

2. That the Mandate and Guidelines of the Hamilton Historical Board be amended to include the following:

   a. The Hamilton Historical Board is made up of fifteen (15) members. One of the fifteen (15) members shall be a member of the current City Council.

Background:
Since 1981, the city owned and operated museums have been eligible for a Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) administered by the Ontario Ministry of Culture. The regulations associated with the grant program direct that a grant receiving museum must be “governed by a publicly accountable body that follows a clearly defined mission and goals, and maintains openness in its decisions and operations” and that “the governing body carries out its responsibility to secure funding necessary for the operation and maintenance of the museum and its activities, and for capital projects.” Under the regulations, a Municipal Council can act as the governing body for municipally operated museums. However, the Ministry maintains the expectation that the on-going review and advisory role of a Board of Directors would be conducted by a publicly accountable body.

Specifically, the governing authority must “appoint a Board or Committee that assumes responsibility for the continuing operation of the museum, and appoints a director or curator to ensure continuity and care of the collection, and service to the community. The governing authority must accept the responsibility for the initiation and execution of
policy, the establishment and execution of annual budgets, and an accounting system used exclusively for the museum, within the framework of the parent organization.” *(Standards for Community Museums in Ontario, Ministry of Culture, August 2000)*. The standards form part of Regulation 877, "Grants for Museums," under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Since 1981, this oversight function has been carried out by the Hamilton Historical Board (HHB), a citizen committee, as part of its mandate.

HHB members are citizens selected by interview and approved by Council. Before 2001, two Councilors were members of the Board. Since 2001, the Board has carried out its regulatory requirements without Council representation.

Board minutes, reports and recommendations are approved by the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

Revenue from the Community Museum Operating Grant Program to the Museums and Heritage Presentation Section, Culture Division, Community Services Department in 2007: $212,129. Grants are calculated on the degree to which a museum meets the various standards and regulations (a “score”) and the total operating budget of the museum.

**Analysis/Rationale:**

The regulations of the Community Museum Operating Grant program direct that a municipal council can be a governing authority but operational oversight rests with a Board or Committee. Such a committee is not an advisory group but one that is required to participate actively in such matters as policy and program development, financial issues, community relations and development: matters which lie outside the normal mandate of citizen committees in general and the HHB in particular.

To meet more closely the regulations of the CMOG and to improve the accountability and transparency of the Board operations, the Board believes that a closer communication with the Emergency and Community Services Committee is needed. Council representation on the Board would expedite the process.

**Staff Consultation:**

Yes  X  No  □

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