

EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 24, 2014

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Councillor Linda Mosher, Vice Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Matt Whitman
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. John Traves, Director of Legal Services
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor City Hall, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 27, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the minutes of January 27, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence – None

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Governance Review Update

(i) Internal Committees

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated February 18, 2014
- A copy of the presentation entitled: Governance: Internal Committees

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs delivered a presentation on the governance review for internal committees as reflected from the individual Councillor interviews. Mr. Bryant sought input from the Standing Committee on the ten suggestions outlined in the presentation/staff report.

The Standing Committee entered into discussion on the ten suggestions, providing their thoughts and suggestions.

In response to a question raised, Mr. Bryant provided clarification around Standing Committees' mandate (suggestion #6), advising that any proposed changes to Administrative Order #1 would be brought to the Executive Standing Committee for review.

Councillor Mosher commented that certain matters have broad implications such as RP+5 and should go directly to Regional Council through Committee of the Whole. She stated that the first three suggestions were not required as they could be done by way of motion to Council. She agreed with the current practise of rotating Community Council chairs but was concerned with chairs being entrenched, and suggested having a recommendation respecting chairs serving a maximum of two terms. She further agreed with suggestions seven and eight, indicating that this is all that is required to be recommended to Regional Council. She expressed that suggestion nine was not necessary and that suggestion ten does not afford all members of Council the opportunity to be on the Executive Standing Committee.

In regard to the first bullet under the background section of the February 18, 2014 staff report, Councillor Rankin suggested a revision: Committee of the Whole serves as a less formal forum than Council itself for *discussing* issues. He expressed that, in his view, COW is a consensus making forum more so than a debating forum. In regard to suggestion four, he asked that staff include a section in the governance report enabling the legislation for matters deemed to be local in nature wherein Council can delegate to Community Council to look after the entire process (i.e. Municipal Planning Strategy amendments); and that the Community Councils` Terms of Reference would have to be updated to receive these powers.

Councillor Karsten commented that public participation has changed over the time he has served on Council. He supported the process for public participation used for the 2014-2015 Budget Review. While recognizing public input is important to good governance, he questioned when to ask for this participation and what would the model/template look like. He provided an example of public participation held at Community Councils wherein the same residents are coming forward and questioned whether the process serves purpose.

Councillor Karsten went on to state that the current Community Council process works and serves well. He did not see a need to rotate chairs, nor did he agree that Community Councils have input into Regional Council's budget as this is the role/function of the entire Council to approve and set direction on a consensus basis. In response to the last bullet under Community Councils, page 5 of the February 18, 2014 staff report, he indicated that joint meetings could be possible but did not support having a "Downtown Community Council". He further supported suggestions five through eight; noting that there is merit in reviewing chairs serving a maximum of two terms. With the exception of the budget process, he suggested that non-members of Standing Committees speak at the end of the speakers list. Lastly, Councillor Karsten stated that Standing Committees appointing chairs to the Executive Standing Committee could be problematic (i.e. serving as chair on two different standing committees).

Councillor Walker indicated that he could support suggestion seven if all Community Councils were equal in size; but as the sizes vary, he suggested a review of that Halifax and West Community Council being able to appoint four members instead of three to Standing Committees. He viewed the Appeals Standing Committee's work as important

but asked staff to review their mandate and powers/duties to determine whether eight members is needed and to provide the reasons for reducing to six. Councillor Walker expressed that the intent of suggestion nine was unclear and sought greater clarification. Councillor Walker supported the present Standing Committee format stating that the Executive Standing Committee works well and is important. He did not see how changing this model (suggestion ten) would work in regard to continuity, as the members would change yearly with the rotation of chairs, the Deputy Mayor changes yearly, as well as, the CAO Review Committee's members would change yearly.

Councillor Craig stated that Standing Committees should be outlined and identified as to what the roles and responsibilities are (suggestion 6). He agreed with Councillor Karsten's suggestion of non-members speaking at the end of the speakers list. He further agreed with Councillor Walker's suggestion of providing the reason around the size of Community Councils/Standing Committees (size versus workload). Councillor Craig further expressed that the Executive Standing Committee's Terms of Reference needs to be more extensive; suggesting the composition be more broadly represented. The geographic areas would have a broader representation of HRM covering rural, urban and suburban focus areas. He supported the current public participation process and being able to determine when to seek input from staff and the community to aid in the decision making process.

The discussion ensued with similar points being made around the rotation of chairs, public input and the size and role of Standing Committees.

Councillor Walker noted a correction to Attachment D of the February 18, 2014 staff report wherein the district names have changed for some of the Councillors.

Councillor Karsten suggested that consideration may want to be given on the Mayor making appointments to the Executive Standing Committee, as is done in another jurisdiction.

It was noted that feedback from today's discussion would be consideration by staff for incorporation into the final report and recommendations.

The Standing Committee addressed Item 7.3 at this time.

7.3 HRM Branding Strategy

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated March 20, 2014
- An update version of the Research Methodologies Table; page 2 of Research Findings (Attachment A of March 20, 2014 staff report)

Mr. Bruce Debaie, Managing Director, Corporate Communications introduced Branding Consultant Phil Otto of Revolve Branding Inc. and Mr. Peter Spurway, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Concession Development & Airport Experience Halifax International Airport Authority. Mr. DeBaie delivered a presentation on the proposed

branding strategy and then turned the floor over to Mr. Otto who delivered a presentation entitled: Halifax Region Brand DNA.

During the presentation Mayor Savage stepped down as Chair and Councillor Mosher assumed the Chair. Mayor Savage resumed as Chair prior to the end of the presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Whitman that the Executive Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve the branding strategy as presented by Revolve Branding Inc. and direct staff to develop a visual identity for HRM based on this strategy.

The Standing Committee noted their support for the branding strategy and the importance of HRM being *bold* as identified by residents during the community engagement sessions.

Given the level of detail in the strategy, Councillor Karsten questioned what this would mean in terms of the financial implications.

In response to requests made, the Clerk's Office will obtain copies of the presentations given, circulate to members and place on file.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 HRM Charter Review

A staff report dated February 18, 2014 was before the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council direct staff to negotiate a new Halifax Regional Municipality Charter based on the scope as outlined in the February 18, 2014 staff report, reporting back to the Executive Standing Committee as appropriate and for approval and recommendation to Regional Council when complete.

The Standing Committee entered into a discussion, with points being made around establishing powers at the Community Council level to address local matters (relative to the Municipal Planning Strategy); Regional Council can assign to Community Council.

In response to questions raised, Ms. Jennifer Church, Managing Director of Government Relations & External Affairs highlighted the staff level conversations held with representatives of the Province and Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities respecting HRM's interest to make the Charter a more flexible and responsive document.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 HRM Branding Strategy

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 5.

7.4 Process for Citizen Appointments to Halifax Water Board

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated February 10, 2014
- Correspondence from Cathie O'Toole and Colleen Purcell

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Executive Standing Committee:

- 1. Put forward a recommendation to Halifax Regional Council to amend the HRM Public Appointment Policy as outlined in Attachment 1 of the February 10, 2014 staff report.**
- 2. Put forward recommendations to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee which include:**
 - a. The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee utilize full procedures outlined in the HRM Public Appointment Policy with regard to the recruitment and nomination of citizen appointment to the Board of Halifax Water. Specifically;**
 - i. Request the Board of Halifax Water provide a list of competencies to be included in the public recruitment ad.**
 - ii. Utilize a staff board, including a representative of the Office of the CAO, the General Manager of Halifax Water (or designate) and the Office of the Municipal Clerk to prepare a review of the applications.**
 - b. As the nominating body for citizen appointments to the Board of Halifax Water, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee;**
 - i. Prepare a short-list of applicants in order to conduct interviews (as provided for in the HRM Public Appointment Policy Section 4.3, and**
 - ii. The interview panel consists of at least one member of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, the chair or vice-chair of the Board of Halifax Water, and the CAO of the Halifax Regional Municipality (or designate).**

The Committee entered into discussion around the motion and the importance of competency based appointments. Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk responding to questions around membership selection; two (2) citizen nominations made by Executive Standing Committee and one (1) citizen nomination made by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee. The Executive Committee would intend to use the same process for nominations as outlined in the recommendation.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. IN CAMERA

10.1 In Camera Minutes – January 27, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Walker to convene into In Camera to address Personnel Matters related to appointments to Board and Committees of Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Standing Committee convened into In Camera at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened its regular session at 12:31 p.m.

10.2 Personnel Matter – CAO Review – Discussion re: Citizen Appointments – Board of Police Commissioners

This matter was addressed during the In Camera session.

10.3 Personnel Matter – Candidate Nominations for Halifax International Airport Authority

This matter was addressed during the In Camera session.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 28, 2014

11.1 Mayor Savage – Proposed Adjustment to 2014 Executive Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

Mayor Savage requested consideration of rescheduling the Standing Committee's May 26th meeting as he would be away.

Upon review of the May calendar, it was **MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Executive Standing Committee rescheduled their May 26th regular meeting to May 12, 2014. MOTION PUT PASSED.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Cathy Mellett
Municipal Clerk