

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 12, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Darren Fisher

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Tim Outhit (absent)

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the minutes of the special meeting of March 22, 2011 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

At the suggestion of the Chair, it was agreed to move item 5.1.1 to be dealt with later in the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Lund that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence:

5.1.1 E-mail from Municipal Clerk – Impact of Phase 2 Construction on City Hall on Standing Committee Meetings

This was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 5.

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations:

5.3.1 Halifax Marine Research Institute

- Dr. Martha Crago, Vice President, Research, Dalhousie University

A staff report dated May 4, 2011 was submitted.

A Power Point presentation was submitted.

The Chair advised that June 8, 2011 is the 40th Anniversary of Oceans Day and during the week of June 2 – 8 Dalhousie University is organizing a symposium to commemorate the occasion.

The Chair introduced Dr. Martha Crago, Vice President of Research at Dalhousie University and advised that she would provide a presentation outlining the importance of the marine sector to HRM and will elaborate on the Halifax Marine Research Institute under construction, which will bring together the numerous stakeholders in the oceans and marine research field.

Dr. Crago advised that she was Chair of the Transitional Board of Directors for the Halifax Marine Research Institute, and she spoke about the significance of the oceans

sector in HRM and, in particular, the new Halifax Marine Research Institute. She explained that the Institute is an incorporated, not-for-profit, collaborative marine research and marine innovation vehicle that is formally organizing assets for the benefit of the regional marine science and marine technology sector. It is comprised of universities, government labs and the private sector. The institute will be developing and submitting funding proposals for multi-party science and for industry engagement and commercialization projects that are national and global in scale and scope. The institute will also have a focus of increasing the supply of highly qualified people to the sector. She outlined the role the Institute will play in bringing together the various marine-related research industries, and harnessing their collective power.

Dr. Crago responded to questions and was thanked by the Chair for her informative presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council endorse the following motion in support of proclaiming June 8, 2011 as Oceans Day:

WHEREAS the history, economy and lifestyle of all communities in Halifax Regional Municipality are touched by the ocean;

AND WHEREAS the marine sector is a major contributor to the regional economy, contributing to tens of thousands of jobs and over 15% of provincial GDP;

AND WHEREAS Nova Scotia and HRM have a global-sized critical mass of marine researchers and businesses;

AND WHEREAS Halifax is the site of the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Ocean Science and Technology, leading to the establishment of the Halifax Marine Research Institute;

AND WHEREAS raising awareness of the importance of the marine sector to HRM's economy and quality of life will support the continued expansion of the sector.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Halifax Regional Council proclaim June 8, 2011, as Oceans Day.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT
HRM work with community partners to raise awareness of the important role the marine sector plays in the regional economy.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. REPORTS: None

7. MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL / OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES:

7.1 Regional Council:

7.1.1 Motion – Councillor Sloane – Update on implementation of the Events Strategy

MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that staff be requested to provide an update on the implementation of the Events Strategy, specifically the new regional scaled events that have been advanced since its implementation, and what if any budget implication this has.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Administrative Standing Committee:

7.2.1 Proposed Civic Events Working Group

A memorandum dated May 5, 2011 was submitted from the Legislative Assistant.

The memorandum advised that the motion in regard to the Proposed Civic Events Working Group which had been forwarded to this Committee from the Administrative Standing Committee in February did not provide sufficient detail as to what information or action it was requesting from the CP & ED Standing. Therefore, the motion was accepted as information only. Subsequently, more detail came forward from the Administrative Standing Committee in this regard, and the matter was now back before the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

The Chair explained that the Administrative Standing Committee would like input as to whether it sees any benefits/drawback to the proposed format of moving Committees such as Canada Day, Natal Day and Bedford Days to a working group format, and away from the existing Committee of Council format.

A discussion ensued and there was a suggestion that the matter be deferred to the next meeting so that staff could be present to respond to questions.

The Committee was informed that Mr. Andrew Whittemore was en route to the meeting and the Committee agreed to continue with the remaining agenda items until Mr. Whittemore was in attendance.

5.1.1 E-mail from Municipal Clerk – Impact of Phase 2 Construction on City Hall on Standing Committee Meetings

An e-mail dated April 18, 2011 was submitted from Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk.

The e-mail advised that upcoming construction work on City Hall may impact on the Standing Committee's meetings and the Committee was asked to consider whether it wanted to continue meeting at City Hall or meet in an alternate location during the construction phase.

There was general consensus to maintain meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

The Committee recessed at 2:47 p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 2:57 p.m. with Mr. Andrew Whittemore, Manager, Community Relations and Cultural Affairs in attendance.

7.2.1 Proposed Civic Events Working Group (cont.'d from page 5)

Mr. Whittemore advised that the Events Strategy had been approved by Regional Council last summer at the same time the new standing committee structure was approved, and this approval included the change of the Canada Day, Natal Day and Bedford Days Committees to a working group format. He explained that the working groups are made up of citizens only, and councillors are no longer required to sit on these Committees, and the Clerk's Office does not provide support.

Mr. Whittemore responded to questions.

In response to questions by Councillor Fisher, Mr. Whittemore indicated that any Councillors are welcome to sit in on the Committee meetings as observers if they wished. Further, Mr. Whittemore advised that he would discuss with the Manager of the Councillors' Office the best way to get notification of the meetings out to Councillors.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee endorses the working group model for civic events, provided that that staff ensure the councillors are informed and welcomed to all scheduled meetings.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 8. ADDED ITEMS:** None
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE:** June 9, 2011
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant