



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 21, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason, Chair  
Councillor Steve Adams, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Steve Craig  
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Derk Slaunwhite, Solicitor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to  
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/index.php>  
are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m., and adjourned at 12:13 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015**

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes of April 16, 2015 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence - None**

**8.2 Petitions - None**

**8.3 Presentation**

**8.3.1 Neptune Theatre – Economic Impact Study for 2015**

The following was before the Committee:

- Neptune Theatre Economic Impact Study: Findings Report
- A Power Point Presentation

Ms. Amy Melmock, General Manager, Neptune Theatre Foundation provided a presentation to the Committee on the findings of a study Neptune Theatre carried out with regard to the Theatre's economic impact. Highlights of her presentation are as follows:

- \$7.37 million is the total direct spending that Nova Scotia based patrons and Neptune's operational spending contribute to the local economy
- Neptune employs 400 people per year and 80% are individuals who live in the local area
- Neptune is the centre of what happens in Theatre in Nova Scotia and Halifax
- For every dollar spent at Neptune, another is spent locally
- Neptune is responsible for \$5.5 million local wages and salaries annually
- For every ticket sold Neptune generates nearly \$41 in revenue for local businesses
- There is significant community support with more than 80% of revenues coming from box office sales, corporate sponsors and donors.

Ms. Melmock advised that the Municipality's support is key and that the Municipality can ensure the Theatre's success by providing ongoing operating support through the new Professional Arts Grant program; by proving tax exemption that continues to set the Theatre on a level playing field with other

Canadian regional theatres, and providing capital support that leverages the participation of their donors and other public sector partners.

Ms. Melmock responded to questions.

Councillor Craig referenced page 2 of the Economic Impact Study and asked Ms. Melmock if she would provide further detail in regard to contributions by various levels of government. In response, Ms. Melmock advised that she had a chart that she would forward to the Committee that contains this information.

The Chair thanked Ms. Melmock for her presentation.

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Navigator Program**

The following was before Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated March 25, 2015.
- A Motion Memo was circulated.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee that Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:**

**(i) Give consideration to funding the Navigator Street Outreach Program in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, resulting in an increase to operating cost centre E400 – Intergovernmental Relations by \$45,000, with funding as a withdrawal from the Operating Surplus Reserve, Q328; and**

**(ii) If Council chooses to make a contribution to the Navigator program, direct staff to negotiate a contribution agreement between HRM and the Downtown Halifax Business Commission that sets out the terms and conditions governing the municipal contribution to the Navigator program for the fiscal year 2015-2016, and return to Council for consideration of the resulting agreement.**

The Chair noted that the motion put forward has been revised from the staff report recommendation to address an aspect the Solicitor believes should be corrected prior to this matter going to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee and to Regional Council. The Chair explained that, although the report discusses the contribution agreement, the recommendation did not provide direction to staff to proceed to negotiate a contribution agreement should Council approve. Therefore, based on the advice of the Solicitor, the recommendation has been revised to include this aspect, i.e. recommendation (ii).

Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Managing Director, Government Relations and External Affairs responded to questions.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **9.1.2 Economic Strategy & Halifax Partnership Update – Year End 2014-2015**

The following was before Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 8, 2015.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee receive the staff report dated May 8, 2015 and forward it to Regional Council for information.**

Mr. Fred Morley, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist, Halifax Partnership, and Ms. Michele McKenzie, Interim President and CEO Halifax Partnership provided a presentation to the Committee which encompassed agenda items 9.1.2, 9.1.3, and 9.1.4.

Mr. Morley, Ms. McKenzie, and Ms. Maggie MacDonald responded to questions from the Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.3 Schedule A Update – Services Agreement Greater Halifax Partnership**

The following was before Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 24, 2015.

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the approval of an amending agreement to the Services Agreement with the Halifax Partnership that replaces the 2014/2015 Schedule A with the 2015/2016 Schedule A included as Attachment 3 to the April 24, 2015 staff report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.4 Economic Strategy: Review, Renew, Refresh**

The following was before Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 14, 2015

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council authorize staff to develop an updated Economic Strategy in collaboration with the Halifax Partnership in accordance with the approach set out in the April 14, 2015 staff report.**

Councillor Watts noted the importance of Halifax Partnership connecting with the Business Improvement Districts and the issues that small businesses and emerging businesses face. She also emphasized the importance of reaching out to newcomers and ensuring diversity on the Board of Directors of the Partnership, in particular, as the Economic Strategy is being developed.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. MOTIONS- NONE**

**11. IN CAMERA-NONE**

**12. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 18, 2015**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant

