

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 12, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair  
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair  
Councillor Steve Streach  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Mary Wile

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Lund that the minutes of November 10, 2011 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Lund noted that the report on the Affordable Housing Functional Plan dealt with by Council December 6, 2011 was referred back to the Committee and he questioned if it was going to be an upcoming agenda.

The Chair advised that it would be discussed at the next agenda planning meeting with staff for a timeline to bring back to the Committee.

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

Deferral:

7.3 Wastewater Oversizing for Future Development of Sandy Lake Lands

The Chair advised that Councillor Outhit was ill today and unable to attend the meeting, however he was requesting that the item be deferred to the next meeting as he would like to discuss the report.

There was general consensus to defer the item to the February 9, 2012 meeting.

Deletion:

7.1 Regional Plan Five Year Review – Communication and Public Engagement Strategy

The Chair advised that staff were requesting deletion of this item from today's agenda and were present to provide an explanation.

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services advised that due to increasing development activity in the Regional Centre and in some of the suburban communities, staff are considering changes to propose to the Committee regarding the phasing and timing of some of the processes within the Regional Plan and Centre Plan project as it is outlined in report submitted for today's meeting. Mr. French added that staff want to be responsive to both the development community and issues arising in communities in response to the level of development activity occurring. He also noted that staff wants to be mindful that a key priority of the Economic Strategy is to direct and accommodate growth within the Regional Centre. Mr. French explained that staff would like to bring

this matter back to the Committee in one month with a revised timeline. He pointed out that there would not be any change to the scope of the Regional Plan or Centre Plan Project.

Mr. French responded to questions.

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS:** None

**5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**5.1 Correspondence:** None

**5.2 Petitions**

**5.3 Presentations:**

**5.3.1 GHP – Update Halifax Gateway**

Ms. Nancy Phillips, Executive Director, Greater Halifax Partnership addressed the Committee and presented an update on the Halifax Gateway.

At 2:10 p.m. Councillor Wile entered the meeting.

In her presentation Ms. Phillips noted that the Halifax Gateway was created in 2004 and includes private sector representatives and all three levels of government with a focus of working collaboratively to market the gateway and improve competitiveness. She added that their vision is to be the preferred eastern gateway for North America for the economic and social benefit of Canada. Ms. Phillips advised that in February of 2010 their 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 year strategic plan was released, focusing on the following goals:

- Optimize transportation system
- Infrastructure improvements
- Policy/Regulatory Impediments
- Brand/Value Proposition
- Support Atlantic Gateway Strategy

Ms. Phillips reviewed their recent successes and upcoming initiatives and responded to questions from the Committee.

Councillor Uteck advised that she recalled a study in 2008 or 2009 which looked at taking freight out of the Port of Halifax and over to Burnside. However, when representatives of the Province got involved, they wanted HRM to put buses and pedestrian walkways in the railway cuts and, as a result, the idea became very expensive. Councillor Uteck questioned if this study could be reviewed because it was

looking very promising until these extras were put in. She noted that HRM was not interested in putting buses or walkways in the railway cut, and that HRM was simply interested in the logistic side of the plan.

In response, Ms. Phillips advised that she wasn't aware if this study was put back on the table for consideration, adding that it was her understanding that it became cost prohibitive. She added that she would take this information back to the Logistics Park Committee.

Following response to further questions, the Chair thanked Ms. Phillips for her presentation.

### **5.3.2 Open Space Functional Plan – Scope and process**

An information report dated November 30, 2011 was submitted.

Ms. Holly Richardson, Coordinator, Real Property Policy provided a presentation on HRM's Open Space Functional Plan. Ms. Richardson began her remarks by explaining that staff has been directed under the HRM Regional Planning Strategy to develop this functional plan. She added that it will set the planning direction and Council's priorities for decision making and investment over the next several years, and will guide program and service delivery. Ms. Richardson also noted that it will help the Municipality to respond and guide development in a more strategic way and will help Council better manage its open space assets. Highlights of her presentation are noted as follows:

- The Plan will start with the Regional Centre as Phase 1; and an open space functional plan for the Regional Centre will be brought to Council in June 2012
- Suburban and Rural Open Space plans will be Phases 2 and 3 and staff have an overall anticipated completion date of spring of 2013
- Strong public engagement component to the process
- Open space resources include private open space as well as public
- Staff are thinking beyond the traditional parks planning approach, and looking at a broader spectrum of open space – parks, waterways, street and sidewalk infrastructure, and views (vistas and image-routes)
- Taking a network approach to the open space elements – understanding how they are inter-connected
- Five pillars under the plan are: outdoor recreation, environmental preservation, cultural identity, transportation, and community-urban form.
- Open space achieves *Smart Growth* and the well-being of the Municipality
- First phase of the Plan is the Regional Centre because, with the Municipality's focus on repopulating the urban core, there will be a requirement for open space resources to meet the needs of the people

A discussion ensued with Ms. Richardson, Mr. Austin French, Manager of Planning Services, and Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning responding to questions.

**6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL/ OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES: None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Regional Plan Five Year Review – Communication and Public Engagement Strategy**

This was deleted during the approval of the order of business.

**7.2 Update and Cost Sharing: Capital Ideas and the Strategic Urban Partnership**

A staff report dated January 8, 2011 was submitted.

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Urban Design Project Manager, provided an overview of the submitted report.

At 3:36 p.m. Councillor Blumenthal retired from the meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Lund that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council:**

- 1. Engage the Greater Halifax Partnership to be the entity through which the Strategic Urban Partnership will be administered;**
- 2. In accordance with HRM's Sole Source Policy (Administrative Order 35, Section 8(11) sub-sections (m) (provided at Attachment #5), award a Sole Source Contract to the Greater Halifax Partnership as the entity through which the Strategic Urban partnership will be administered;**
- 3. As a contribution toward the SUP's first year of work, grant authority to HRM's CAO to cost share in the Strategic Urban Partnership's funding requirements in the amount of \$55,000 cash from CDG01283, to Greater Halifax Partnership as the entity through which the Strategic Urban Partnership will be administered, and \$25,000 in in-kind contributions; and**
- 4. Approve the Constitution of the Strategic Urban Partnership as its Terms of Reference.**

Mr. Fillmore responded to questions.

In response to a question by Councillor Lund, Mr. Fillmore advised that ideas and information are managed through a core team of 22 people and there are strategic groups within the Strategic Urban Partnership that take care of the flow of information. In response to a further question by Councillor Lund, Mr. Fillmore advised that he would provide him information with respect to the members working in specific groups.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.3 Wastewater Oversizing for Future Development of Sandy Lake Lands**

During the approval of the order of business, this item was deferred to the Standing Committee's next regular meeting.

**8. ADDED ITEMS: None**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 9, 2012**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment Councillor Lund referred to the submitted information memorandum, noting that the group is looking for funding from HRM. He suggested that this should be placed on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

The Chair noted that the request pertains to a presentation staff provided the Committee in November regarding the Social Heritage Strategy. She advised that the item would be placed on the next agenda and that she would like staff to comment on how this request fits within the Strategy.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

Memorandum dated January 4, 2012 from Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council RE: Proposed Eastern Shore Coastal Heritage Centre