



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 5, 2014**

PRESENT: Councilor Barry Dalrymple, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councilor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Richard Maclellan, Manager Energy and Environment
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Coordinator
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor
Mr. Quentin Hill, 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 Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCenv/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m., and. the Standing Committee adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm in the Halifax City Hall Council Chambers, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions: 12.1 Hope Blooms

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher that the agenda be approved as amended. 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

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 Nova Scotia Department of Energy – Mr. Bruce Cameron

Mr. Bruce Cameron, Provincial Executive Director Sustainable and Renewable Energy and Ms. Krystal Therien, Provincial Project Manager Electricity Review provided the presentation to the Committee and provided the following highlights from the presentation:

- Energy issues are of mutual interest between the province and municipality are of mutual interest.
- New Provincial Initiatives
 - o Electricity Review
 - o Low Impact Renewables to Retail
 - o Sustainable Transportation Strategy

- Province to collaborate further with municipalities and a possible forum on energy and sustainability in Fall 2014.
- Outlined successful joint projects and ongoing projects with HRM. On-going collaboration in district energy and low impact renewables to retail.
- New Provincial initiatives to focus on Electricity Review, Sustainable Transportation Strategy and Nova Scotia Moves Grant program.

Mr. Cameron and Ms. Therien then responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. Councillor Dalrymple thanked the presenters for the presentation. The Committee extended an invitation to Mr. Cameron and Ms. Therien to attend a future meeting in the fall of 2014.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Community Garden Administrative Order #2014-009-OP

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated May 30, 2014*

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director Community Recreation Services and Mr. Lee Moore, Acting Manager Community Recreation Services provided a brief outline of the report to the Committee.

Mr. Anguish advised that there have been community gardens operating in HRM for a number of years. He noted that there was a program in place operating the community gardens but no formal policy. The reason for the urgency to pass the report was that there is an organization that wants to donate a greenhouse to the municipality in support of the Hope Blooms project. The Community Garden Administrative Order talks about that no more than 5% of public property being a community garden. It shall not be located on a sports field, street or median between the street or a municipal park unless there is an agreement in place with the municipality. Mr. Anguish added that community gardens are not to impede public access and must be accessed during the day time. He also added that no greenhouse or shed could be constructed without the consent of Regional Council.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council adopt Administrative Order 2014-009-OP, the Community Garden Administrative Order, as set out in attachment 1 of this report.

In response to Councillor Watts, Mr. Anguish noted that the previous program without the AO did not support food distribution and put groups like Hope Blooms in an awkward situation. He added that any money made from distribution or sale of produce would have to be reinvested into the community garden. The goal would be to drive the proceeds of using municipal property would be put back into the community.

Councillor Nicoll questioned if the Community Garden Administrative Order would work in line with the food strategy and urban orchards work that was going to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

Mr. Anguish stated he was not aware of the other initiatives but felt that it would not hinder other work. He added that this program was part of the CRS business plan and would ensure alignment with local food production promotion strategy. He further explained that it delivers on the Mayors initiative on healthy, livable communities.

Councillor Craig questioned if any consideration was given to the municipality providing the proper soil for groups to get started.

Mr. Moore advised that most organizations source out soil and no consideration had been given to providing it. He added that there is concern about groups digging down into soil that may be unhealthy and that is why the garden beds are requested to be raised beds with clean soil put in them.

The question was now before the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Hope Blooms

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated May 30, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council authorize and direct staff to CAO or his delegate, to negotiate and execute an agreement with Hope Blooms in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Table 1 respecting the operation of a greenhouse to be built at Murray Warrington Park.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Regulatory Review Process Discussion

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff information report dated May 28, 2014*

Mr. Gord Helm, Manager Solid Waste Resources and Ms. Laurie Lewis Diversion planning Coordinator provided the presentation to the Committee. He advised that staff met with provincial representatives regarding the Nova Scotia Environments examination of possible changes to the solid waste regulations. Mr. Helm noted that the process has been going on for a year with the release of the current document of proposed changes which was circulated to the

Committee. He advised that staff need more time to properly examine the proposal from the province and be able to give the Committee and Council time to review that information.

Discussion ensued with staff responding to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Fisher that ESSC recommend that Halifax RC Send a letter to the provincial Environment Minister requesting extension of deadline for feedback on framework from 10 July to 7 November 2014 and request the establishment of an opportunity for the municipality to review recommended regulations prior to advancement through cabinet.”

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 HSW Program Events

Ms. Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator provided a brief presentation to the Committee. Since April there have been five mobile hazardous waste material handling collection events happening from Porter's Lake to Beaver Bank. The events are being held in addition to the permanent depot in the Bayer's Lake area. She noted there are a more events in the planning stages.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that he heard good reviews about the event held in the Porter's Lake area and wondered if there was possibility of having events out in more rural areas.

Ms. Lewis they would look at the possibility of having an event in the more easterly regions.

Mr. Helm advised that they were approved for 16 events, one for each member of Council. He noted that more could be considered if Councillors whose districts were close to one another wanted to have a joint event.

Councillor Dalrymple requested that staff send the information on the pickup locations be forwarded to him so that he could send out to the local newspapers.

9.3 REGIONAL CHAIRS

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. IN CAMERA - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Hope Blooms Report

This was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 3, 2014

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant