



**COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

March 3, 2005

PRESENT:

Mr. Shawn Lahey, Vice Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Larry Guptill
Mr. Wilf McEachern
Ms. Sylvia Parris
Ms. Susanne Wise
Ms. Gail Wilson (5:25)

ABSENT:

Ms. Betty Thomas, Chair (regrets)
Ms. May Lui (regrets)
Mr. David Khokhar (regrets)
Mr. Juan Carlos Canales - Leyton
Mr. Thomas Rissesco

STAFF AND OTHERS:

Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Charla Williams, Coordinator, Diversity Program
Sgt. Don McLean, Equity/Diversity Officer, HRP
Ms. Tatjana Zatezalo, Diversity Consultant
Ms. Susan Corser, Planner, Regional Planning

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 in the Media Room, City Hall without a quorum being present. He invited members to put forward any issues they wanted to discuss on an informal basis.

Discussion:

Councillor Hendsbee advised of the International Day for the Elimination of Racism activities taken place on March 21, 2005 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex from 8:30-1:00. He noted that Halifax Regional Municipality was not listed as a sponsor. Ms. Charla Williams commented that HRM does not have a representative on the committee.

Councillor Hendsbee circulated Schedule R of HRM's Employment Equity Policy and Schedule Q of the Race Relations Policy to inform committee members on what HRM is doing on these issues. He also suggested that the committee invite Mr. Peter Ross, Manager, Procurement to a committee meeting to discuss HRM's draft procurement and race relations policy.

Ms. Gail Wilson entered the meeting at 5:25. With a quorum now present, the Vice Chair recalled the meeting to order and proceeded to follow the regular agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 2, 2004, October 7, 2004, November 4, 2004 and December 2, 2004, January 6, 2005 and February 3, 2005.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Larry Guptill to approve the minutes and notes of September 2, 2004, October 7, 2004, November 4, 2004 and December 2, 2004, January 6, 2005 and February 3, 2005. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Move: Move 5.1 to follow approval of agenda.

MOVED by Mr. Larry Guptill, seconded by Ms. Gail Wilson to move item 5.1 to follow Approval of the Agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Regional Planning Presentation - update on the Regional Plan

- The Guide to HRM's Proposed Regional Plan was before the Committee.

Ms. Susan Corser gave an overview of HRM's Proposed Regional Plan. The presentation

highlighted the following:

- The plan is a hybrid of the three alternatives that was presented to Regional Council and the public in 2004.
- The Regional Plan will strengthen the protection of natural resources and rural resource lands.
- The Regional Plan will strengthen the position of HRM as a major economic center.
- The plan identifies a settlement pattern in conjunction with transportation planning as indicated on page 8 and 9.
- The Regional Planning Committee is currently at step seven and is requesting feedback from the committee for inclusiveness in consultation.

The Committee raised the following concerns/comments during the ensuing discussion:

- Councillor Hendsbee commented that he is concerned that all communities are not included in the consultation process with regard to the impact of the plan on Preston, Lake Major and the Westphal area. People will view the plan differently.
- Ms. Charla Williams asked whether or not the Regional Plan has taken into consideration the impact on historical black communities in HRM. Some of these lands have been deeded from the crown. North Preston is identified as a local center but East Preston and Hammond Plains have not been identified. If these communities maintain those lands will it be an issue in the future to get the services necessary to maintain those lands? She suggests that the Regional Planning Committee make sure there is some recommendation as to how the plan is going to move forward while taking into consideration the historical aspects in advance of putting the plan in place.
- Councillor Hendsbee concurred with Ms. Charla Williams that it has to be addressed and must be clarified as to what will happen. He commented that the opportunity for the Prestons to develop has always been an issue. Should it be the private sector or government who develops the area. Part of the problem is that banks will not give mortgages or insurance without clear titles to land.
- Ms. Susan Corser commented that there is a community meeting in Cherry Brook on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Black Cultural Center. She also stated that Mr. Wayne Adams is on the Regional Planning Committee and their concerns will be taken into consideration.
- Ms. Charla Williams asked if the recent immigration strategy is factored into the plan. Ms. Susan Corser stated that the plan is based on the growth of HRM through immigration.
- Mr. Larry Guptill asked whether or not HRM allowed developers to put in water and sewage in new developments. Councillor Hendsbee commented that developers do put in water and sewage and the cost is included in the cost of the land and house. The

problem occurs with older homes as they do not have the money available to hook up to the lines. As the development in these areas increase assessments increase and may force those whom are unable to pay out of the communities thus losing their culture.

- Larry Guptill concurred with Councillor Hendsbee and Ms. Charla Williams concerns as there are some historical white communities that would be affected by the plan. However, Ms. Charla Williams indicated that one must recognize the fact that residents of historical black communities did not have a choice as to where they were to reside and were not able to develop the land they were given.
- Committee members have concerns over the ability of community members to understand what the plan is and how it affects them. Wilf McEachern asked if the plan had a mission statement. Ms. Susan Corser stated that there was a mission statement and several background papers relating to the plan. Councillor Hum suggested that copies of the background documents be sent to the Clerk's office to be circulated to committee members.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

4.3 Design of a Poster

Moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Larry Guptill that the design of the poster be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 6:10 p.m. Councillor Hendsbee and Susan Corser retired from the meeting. With a quorum no longer being present agenda items 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5 were not discussed and the committee reverted to an informal discussion.

Informal discussion:

- Sgt. Don MacLean circulated a poster regarding the Chief's Diversity Advisory Committee. The advisory committee is looking for at least 10 members to serve.
- Councillor Hum asked if they would be looking for someone from the Community and Relations Committee to sit on the committee. Sgt. MacLean commented that there are no requirements or quotas. The committee will be diverse and depend on who applies.

6. ADDED ITEMS - None

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting date is April 7, 2005.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant