

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 17, 2009

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair

REGRETS: Councillor Linda Mosher
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations
Services & Strategy

STAFF: Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Ms. Alva Robinson, BPIM Data Analyst
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician, GISS
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk, Municipal Clerks Office
Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant, Municipal
Clerks Office
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Councillor's Boardroom, City Hall with Councillor Tim Outhit in the Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 3, 2009

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Minutes of December 3, 2009, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There was no changes to the order of business.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Previous District Boundary Review Process (staff update)

Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office, provided an overview to the Committee regarding previous District Boundary applications. In 2000 HRM held three (3) information meetings. The 2004 review involved two (2) phases. Phase 1, governance phase, there were eleven (11) meetings held based upon the Community Council areas. Phase 2, the district boundary phase, there were seven (7) meetings held based upon the Community Council areas. During the 2007 review, HRM did two phases of meetings and two (2) meetings were held for each phase. It was noted that there was a significant difference in the number of citizens in attendance between governance and boundary phases. Staff found more citizens were in attendance at the boundary discussion meetings.

In response to a questions raised by Councillor Rankin, Ms. Grant noted that the public participation was greater when the meetings were held in the Community Council areas. She noted that six (6) meetings in total were held, one (1) in each Community Council District area, and one (1) additional meeting, which was held in the Cole Harbour area.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Public Consultation for phase 1 (continued from December 3rd meeting)

Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk, Municipal Clerks Office, raised the following items for the Committee's consideration and discussion:

- firming up the approach to the number of public consultation meetings
- governance section, bring forward questions regarding: role of Council, role of Community Council, powers of Community Council and Regional Council

Ms. Mellett indicated that during previous District Boundary Review Committee meetings, Councillor Gloria McCluskey suggested the Committee take a tour of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) to get a sense of the size of each District. Ms. Mellett noted that Corporate Communications is prepared to develop an orientation video for the public meetings to provide consistent context and approach for each meeting. She suggested using Google Earth in conjunction with the information from Environics and parts of the orientation video to create a short presentation for the public consultation meetings. It was also suggested that the presentation be introduced on the HRM website. Ms. Mellett noted the cost of creating a video for the public consultation would be in the range of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The Committee viewed a sample of an employee orientation video created by Corporate Communications.

Councillor Gloria McCluskey entered the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Mayor Kelly entered the meeting at 1:14 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

Councillor Dalrymple suggested highlighting the comparisons of the Halifax Regional Municipality and Prince Edward Island. It was noted that both are the same size but HRM has twice the amount of residents.

Councillor Outhit felt the video along with Google Earth would be a more eco friendly way to present the information on HRM. He noted it is an opportunity for the Municipality to express who it is, what it has to offer and how to better itself.

It was noted that creating individual presentations for each community would be too costly but each part of HRM will be reflected in the presentation.

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with citizens not attending the governance meetings or perhaps focussing on the boundary lines. He stressed the importance in Phase 1 of the Committee asking the public their opinion of what an effective governance model is for effective decision making as opposed to representing local constituencies.

Councillor Outhit suggested combining the governance and boundary meetings into one meeting. Sara Knight, Solicitor, advised that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) would want the Committee to hold two separate phases of consultation and has approved that approach. She noted that the Committee would be concerned that

people would not talk about governance issues because they would likely be focussed on the boundary lines.

Councillor Rankin expressed the importance of the Committee going to Council with an information report regarding Phase 1 consultation.

MOVED BY Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the District Boundary Review Committee hold six (6) meetings in each Community Council area, along with one (1) additional meeting in District 1 for Phase 1, Governance Model, of the public consultation meetings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was noted that the basis for the Committee requesting an additional meeting in District 1, for Phase 1, is due to the considerable spacial characteristics.

The Committee agreed to hold the seven (7) public consultation meetings during the regular February meeting of each Community Council with proper advertising for each meeting. * Note: Meeting dates were revised at the Committee meeting of January 7, 2010.

The Committee requested staff prepare a project time line and Gantt Chart of critical project dates for review at the next meeting. The Committee also suggested that information regarding each of the meeting be available on the HRM website and advertised in the newspaper as well as providing information and a summary of the meetings.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - January 7, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

Information Items

1. Information Report - update population & growth projections
2. Meeting Schedule