

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 1, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Mr. Wayne Anstey, DCAO, Operations

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician
Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst
Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the February 18, 2010 meeting minutes, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda, as distributed, was accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Presentation Environics Analytics

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Manager/Acting Municipal Clerk, advised that Environics Analytics would be in Halifax on other business on April 30, 2010. Environics has agreed to make a presentation and respond to questions relative to the methodology and inputs to their work on populations statistics for HRM. Ms. Mellett noted that the presentation would be given in the afternoon and suggested that the Committee invite all members of Council to hear the presentation.

The Committee agreed to meet with Environics on April 30, 2010 and to invite all members of Council to that meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Public Feedback - District Boundaries

This matter was dealt with under item 7.1

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Information Report - Phase 1 Consultation - For Review

- An information report dated March 22, 2010 was before the Committee

Ms. Mellett presented the report noting there were a number of Attachments which provided additional information.

Councillor McCluskey expressed concern that the report used words such as 'generally felt and some' and suggested that the report should deal with concrete numbers.

Councillor Mosher noted that there were some duplications between the presentations and written submissions and requested the duplication be removed. She further requested that the Chronicle Herald attachment not be included as individuals contributing to the blog do not sign their names, **to which the Committee agreed.**

Following a brief discussion during which it was noted that Council effectiveness has been a theme throughout the public consultation and one which the committee can address in their recommendations to Council. Given that there appears to be an appetite for Community Council's to have more authority, the Committee requested that staff bring forward a proposal regarding increased authority for Community Council.

7.1.1 Response to Information Requests - Phase 1 Consultation

- An information report dated March 29, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Mellett indicated that the report included a comparative table of municipalities from Atlantic Canada and across the country. The report is intended to provide a variety of comparisons for consideration of the Committee. The report notes that the comparisons are not meant to direct the Committee or Council's deliberations but provide contextual information for the broader consideration of governance issues.

Councillor Rankin suggested the model used for Councillor remuneration serve as an additional analysis tool for the appropriate size of Council.

7.2 Process and Time Lines - Recommendation to Council

Ms. Mellett provided a short presentation on the process and time-line for the Committee to bring forward their recommendation on governance, including

recommended size of Council to Regional Council. Councillor Rankin expressed strongly that the recommendation should go directly to Regional Council rather than to Committee of the Whole. After some discussion the committee agreed.

During the discussion Ms. Mellett noted that she will be out of the Country from May 20th through June 11th. The requirement to bring forward a recommendation for Council's decision prior to the end of June, to enable staff to carry the work required for any boundary changes or realignments was noted by the Committee.

The Committee agreed to a series of meetings during April to proceed to their recommendation on Phase 1 regarding the Governance Model and size of Council to Council as early as possible.

The Recommendation will include:

- a recommended size of Regional Council
- recommendations regarding the role and powers of Community Councils
- other Council governance effectiveness areas as the Committee sees fit.

To assist in their deliberations the Committee directed staff to bring back more specific details on the changes required to district boundaries and representation should the committee make a recommendation for 23, 20 or 18 districts.

7.3 Meeting Dates

The Committee agreed to the following dates:

Monday, April 19, 2010 - 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 26, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friday, April 30, 2010 - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m (Environics presentation). All members of Council to be invited.

7.4 Invitation to Present - UNSM (Cathy Mellett)

Ms. Mellett advised that she has been invited to present to the upcoming UNSM Spring Workshop regarding boundary review.

8. ADDED ITEMS - None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2010 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Clerk