

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND DISTRICT BOUNDARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 22, 2010

- PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillors: Jerry Blumenthal
Barry Dalrymple
Peter Lund
Linda Mosher
Reg Rankin
Bill Karsten (on behalf of Councillor McCluskey)
- REGRETS:** Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- STAFF:** Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician
Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
- GUESTS:** Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Jennifer Watts

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting of the Governance and District Boundaries Committee, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 September 13, 2010 Correspondence to NSUARB re Decision of Council re Number of Districts/September 17, 2010 response from the NSUARB

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Lund that the September 13, 2010 Correspondence to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and the September 17, 2010 response from the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) be accepted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. REPORTS

A presentation entitled Phase 2 – Boundary Review, September 22, 2010 was before the Committee. A document entitled For Halifax Regional Municipality- Table 1: Population and Voter Counts was also before the Committee.

Ms. Mellett introduced Phase 2 of the Boundary Review noting that it was based upon Council's decision to remain at 23 Districts/Councillors. She reviewed with the Committee its mandate in this Phase as set out in the original Council motion.

6.1 Phase 2 Public Consultation Plan

i) Strategy

ii) Meeting Dates and Location

iii) Alternative forms of Input

Ms. Mellett noted that the timelines for Phase 2 were extremely tight with the application having to be submitted to the NSUARB by December 31, 2010. She indicated that in order to meet this deadline the matter should be considered by Council no later than November 30, 2010. Staff is proposing that public consultation take place the last week of October and the first week of November and that the meetings be staff led allowing Councillors an opportunity to give their feedback.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the public consultation meetings for Phase 2 of the Boundary review be staff led. MOTION PASSED.

Councillor Karsten noted that the Fall UNSM Conference would be happening the last week of October.

Ms. Mellett noted that staff was proposing that public consultation meetings be set for each Community Council area and that in areas of larger change more meetings be held. She went on to note that residents will also have the opportunity to provide written submission. Ms. Mellett advised that all information pertaining to Phase 2 will be available at www.halifax.ca.

6.2 Review of Draft Boundaries for Public Consultation

Ms. Mellett advised that boundary changes will be required as 12 of the 23 Districts are either over or under the +/-10% average population direction set by the UARB. The average population under the proposed boundaries is 14,244 per District. The proposed boundaries anticipate where growth will happen to 2012. Staff recognizes that voters have experienced significant change since amalgamation and are hopeful that these boundaries will be maintained for two or three elections.

Ms. Mellett went on to outline the principles used to propose the new boundaries, as follows:

- Take growth into account
- Previous decision of the UARB to be considered
- Would the change make sense to the voters
- Where possible use identifiable dividing lines (main roads, highways, community boundaries)
- Meet the UARB mandate of +/- 10% average voters (14,244 average)
- Address specific community requests if possible
- Be prepared to make arguments in defence of variances where required.

Ms. Mellett explained the approach taken by staff in developing the boundaries which included:

- utilizing the Environics 2012 voter projections at the District Boundary level

- reviewing previous UARB decisions
- mapped boundary changes since 2000 over top of each other as well as plan areas, bylaw areas, service areas, community boundaries, etc
- reviewed options for boundary adjustments based on UARB criteria
- reviewed boundaries with civic addressing, finance and planning

Ms. Mellett and Mr. Lenihan, using a map illustrating both current and proposed boundaries, reviewed with the Committee the proposed boundary changes for the 23 Districts and responded to a variety of questions.

Members of the Committee provided suggestions for changes they believed would be more appropriate, recognized communities of interest and would be more acceptable to voters.

Ms. Mellett indicated that staff would come back to the Committee with revised boundaries based on the Committee's input.

7. ADDED ITEMS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee agreed to meet on September 30, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. to

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Clerk