

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 1, 2009

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

REGRETS: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations

ABSENT: Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services & Strategy

STAFF: Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellet, Acting Clerk/Manager, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
3.	REPORTS	3
	3.1 Review of Activities to Date	3
	3.2 Committee Logistics	4
	3.3 Proposed Approach to Phase 1	4
	3.4 Discussion	5
	3.5 Next Meeting	6
4.	ADJOURNMENT	6

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

His Worship, Mayor Peter Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. in the Councillors Boardroom, City Hall.

Councillor McCluskey nominated Mayor Kelly as Chair. Mayor Kelly accepted the nomination. Following the final call for nominations, nominations were closed.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that Mayor Kelly be appointed as Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Blumenthal nominated Councillor Outhit as Vice Chair. Councillor Outhit accepted the nomination. Following the final call for nominations, nominations were closed.

MOVED BY Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that Councillor Outhit be appointed as Vice Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In response to a question, the Chair advised the quorum for the Committee would be four (4).

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. **REPORTS**

3.1 **Review of Activities to Date**

- A power point presentation was before the Committee.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Clerk/Manager, Office of the Municipal Clerk, introduced staff to the Committee advising them of their individual roles. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, will be legislative support for the Committee. Ms. Mellett noted that Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk, supported the last District Boundary Review and is sitting in to give her perspective. Sara Knight, Solicitor, will be providing legal support and Paul Morgan is the Senior Planner for the Committee.

Ms. Mellett advised a Technical Support Committee has been assigned to deal with the mapping and demographics. This Committee is headed by Alva Robinson. Other technical support includes Hilary Campbell and various GIS mapping staff. Their purpose is to provide the Committee with as much support in their area as they can.

Ms. Mellett advised her role is staff lead for the governance areas, which includes District Boundary Review.

Ms. Mellett advised that staff has reviewed Legal Services' comments relating to previous Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's (NSUARB) decisions. These are attached in Appendix A of the report.

3.2 Committee Logistics

The Committee agreed to meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Agreed times for the 1st Thursday is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on the 3rd Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The next meeting date will be Thursday, November 5th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Councillors Boardroom, City Hall. The Chair directed the Legislative Assistant to book the meeting dates and location.

MOVED BY Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that the meetings be held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.3 Proposed Approach to Phase 1

Ms. Mellett advised Phase 1 is the governance phase. She noted there are challenges with the review being done between census years. The last census was done in 2006 and another is to be done in 2010. She advised they are bringing the current information up to date to 2009. She further indicated that a review is being done on three key areas:

1. Stressed areas
2. Growth areas
3. Declining areas

The Governance Phase will include a consideration of:

- Committees and Council as part of the structure.
- The number of Councillors.

Councillor Rankin suggested developing two or three models for the Committee's input.

The Committee requested a tour of the 23 districts throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality.

3.4 Discussion

The Chair asked what methodology would be used. Ms. Mellett advised Environics, a company from Toronto, has been engaged to provide detailed demographics.

The Committee raised concerns with respect to Environics' lack of familiarity with area, previous incorrect reports and making sure the correct information is presented to NSUARB, as well as cost. The Committee asked why HRM is using external resources opposed to internal. Ms. Mellett noted staff will be working with Environics to use their best practices and information and staff's knowledge of the area to produce the best results to NSUARB. She noted that the cost is \$45,000.

The Committee is to be provided a copy of the RFP and the final evaluation matrix for Environics.

Discussions ensued regarding the proposed approach with the following being offered for consideration:

- have hybrid meetings at various locations to ensure viable public participation
- a facilitated session may be the best format
- three areas of inquiry: role of the Councillors, constituency in work and interest/role of the citizens
- consider how Regional Council serves the citizens, how Community Council serves the citizens
- Community Council should be comprised of an odd number of Councillors to avoid deadlock on issues
- what are the management issues for Community Council
- determine what powers should be given to Community Councils
- look at changes to the size, role and rules of Community Councils
- Community Council be given more authority to deal with issues pertaining to their local area
- this is a good opportunity to address growing pains from amalgamation
 - are we too large
 - does it take too long to get issues through Council
 - why should Regional Council have discussion on things that pertain only to a particular District
- amalgamation is still in the evolution stage
- de-amalgamation is not the direction in which the Committee wishes to move
- putting a strategy in place to deal with concerns from the public regarding amalgamation and highlighting the benefits to them is key
- more rural areas could benefit from annexation
- needs to be a sense of fairness to community
- hold meetings throughout HRM so public doesn't always have to come to Halifax

- members of public are moving away from central part of HRM because they are getting older
- central HRM is where the main source of money comes from
- inadequate meeting spaces needs to be addressed
- reducing the size of Council will have an effect on the Community Councils
- combine into three key Community Councils: urban, suburban and rural
- this may be an opportunity to combine various boards and committees together
- Councillors at large should be considered
- meetings throughout HRM beginning in the Spring

Councillor Mosher requested information on how the appropriate number of Provincial MLAs is determined.

Ms. Mellett advised staff have a good idea of the approach based on the discussion and asked how staff should keep other members of Council informed. The Committee agreed to send out a questionnaire to Community Councils, subject to Council's approval.

3.5 Next Meeting - November 5, 2009

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Staff report from Committee of the Whole dated August 4, 2009
2. Committee of the Whole presentation dated August 4, 2009
3. An extract of the Regional Council motion from August 4, 2009

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant