

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 16, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Friedeman Brauer
Ms. Gai Thomas
Mr. Michael Beiswanger
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Mr. Steve Bedard
Mr. Lawrence Plug

REGRETS: Mr. Tom Boyd
Ms. Laena Garrison (Leave of absence)
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo (Resigned)

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents
Ms. Jessie Debaie
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Pam Lovelace, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair Councillor Jennifer Watts called the meeting to order at 4:05pm at Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Walter Regan reported that the Halifax Trails Association's (HRTA) Holiday Party on December 13th was a great success. The Committee was pleased that someone secretly went through the trails and picked up garbage. Mr. Regan submitted a Regional Trails update to the committee (attached).

Councillor Mosher arrived at 4:12pm and assumed the Chair.

Councillor Watts requested clarification from Mr. Regan on connectivity issues for trails as a recent study was completed by Cold Water Consulting. Members of the public can find out more by visiting www.Halifax.ca and search: coldwater consulting.

Councillor Mosher handed out a December 3rd news release issued by CNIB in recognition of HRM's improved audible pedestrian signals (attached).

Councillor Mosher offered a brief update on the Trail of Lakes, noting that although it is not yet officially open, it is used frequently.

Councillor Watts noted that the HRM Police have issued a PSA on cross walk safety due to the frequency of cross walk accidents in the last few days.

Councillor Mosher suggested that someone from Provincial road safety sit on the AT Safety sub-committee. Councillor Watts and Ms. Pugh will work together to source a provincial participant.

Discussion followed on the signal differences at intersections and crosswalks, and the phasing out of audible signals at crosswalks.

Ms. Pugh provided details on the Provincial plans to run an educational awareness campaign on the changes to the Motor Vehicle Act, once passed. Bill 93 has passed 3rd reading.

Councillor Hendsbee sent a request for information on the Active Transportation Plan to staff. The Active Transportation Plan was the first of five functional plans approved. Councillor Hendsbee suggested that this committee include the Plan's review in the AT Advisory Committee's work plan and add it to January's meeting agenda.

Councillor Mosher requested four copies of the entire plan with maps for the January meeting.

All current committee appointments have been extended. Councillor Mosher did not re-offer. An election of Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the January meeting.

Ms. Gregory passed on well wishes from Mr. Orengo who has resigned from the committee and travelled back to Africa to tend to personal matters.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2010

Ms. Koblents requested a revision to 9.2 of November 18 minutes. "Ms. Koblents has been working with a student intern to develop a plan to install more bike parking downtown and on Quinpool Road."

Mr. Paul Euloth was present at the last meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Bedard, that the minutes of November 18, 2010 be approved with revisions. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee made roundtable introductions.

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

5 BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES – November 18, 2010

5.1 Subcommittee Updates

5.1.1 Bike Week 2011

Ms. Koblents confirmed that the registration form will be available online on January 15. This committee will be asked to assist in forwarding information on Bike Week to colleagues and communities.

Councillor Mosher approached GEM Health Care Group, a leader in senior care facilities, and asked if they would sponsor some 3-wheel bikes. GEM agreed to meet with Councillor Mosher in the Spring to discuss further. It may be possible to bring in other stakeholders and kick off Bike Week at a Senior's Care facility.

Discussion followed on the changes to the definition of bicycle in the Motor Vehicle Act. Councillor Mosher thanked the Province for allowing Ms. Pugh to participate and support the AT Committee.

5.1.2 Safety / Education

Councillor Watts gave an update on the Dal campus bike centre and the survey done on bike maintenance. One of the stumbling blocks with bike use is the lack of maintenance knowledge.

Councillor Watts reported on a new group that aims to celebrate bikes with a month long event and perhaps close streets down for a period of time and open them only to bikes. Jennifer McGowan went to Ottawa and met with groups from the Netherlands and discussed the biking culture in Europe. Slow biking seems to be the focus, rather than speed biking workouts. There is no need for formal education in the Netherlands because biking is an integrated part of daily life.

Councillor Mosher asked if the Cycling Coalition could provide courses for free to assist people in learning how to maintain their bikes outside of the Bike Week events.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff Reports

8.1.1 Peninsula Screenline Bicycle Count Report (Information Report)

Ms. Koblents reported to the Committee on results of the bicycle counts. There was a high compliance of hand signals, although many bikes were seen on the Quinpool Road sidewalks.

9. ADDED ITEMS- None

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public came forward to speak.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 4:00pm Bloomfield Centre.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Pamela Lovelace
Legislative Support