

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 3, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair  
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair  
Mr. Eric Burchill  
Mr. Geoff LeBoutillier  
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed  
Ms. Joanne Macrae  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Waye Mason  
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Mr. Bill Book  
Mr. Peter Moorhouse

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure  
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning  
Ms. Susan Corser, Project Co-ordinator  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda be approved as presented.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS:**  
None

**5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS- None**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Staff**

**6.1.1 Review of Draft Regional Plan**

Ms. Fraser explained that following up on the discussion at the last meeting, staff's objective for this meeting is to get specific examples of areas in the Draft Plan where the Committee feels there are gaps. Ms. Fraser emphasized the importance of keeping to the timeline of the review process and pointed out that the Centre Plan project cannot start until the Regional Plan review is done. She added that there is a recognition that priorities may have to shift. Ms. Fraser advised the Committee that with respect to the Centre Plan, staff feel the best approach now is to do the Centre Plan in full, rather than just focus on the 11 corridors, so that there will be one completed document when it is done.

The Chair advised that the purpose today is to get clarity on the Committee member's concerns, and she added that she felt some of those could be dealt with around the table, but others would have to be taken away for further consideration. The Chair then reviewed two options for proceeding with today's review and asked the Committee how they wished to proceed.

At 11:40 a.m. Ms. Macrae entered the meeting.

The Committee agreed to proceed with today's Draft Plan Review by having a high-level discussion of each Chapter.

The following comments were put forward in regard to Chapter 1 – Introduction:

- Greenbelting – in the introduction, the three tiers should be clearly articulated and clearly refer to Map 2 from the outset.
- In reference to page 14, table 1-5, provide an explanation of a Secondary Plan
- In reference to page 9, section 1.4 a suggestion of a reordering and restatement of the goals and ‘do our actions support those goals?’
- Health benefits in Chapter 3 could be flushed out and put in the Introductions – have the goals support the vision.
- Section 1.1 – suggest that the tone change to reflect a more positive outlook, e.g. instead of saying, ‘we cannot prevent growth’, say, ‘we encourage growth’.
- The population standards should be updated.
- In reference to 1.1.2 – Implementation; and 1.5 - How this Plan was Created, provide wording explaining what the five year review will achieve.
- Statements are not specific or forward-thinking enough and there are no goals or objectives.
- A key question to ask is ‘what do you want to accomplish with this document’
- Three issues –Greenbelting, Regional Centre, and Transportation – be bold with these upfront.
- The two up-front goals should be, set goals that people will engage in; and the Plan should be growth-enabling.
- The vision needs to be stated at the beginning of each chapter or in the introduction of the policies.

Ms. Fraser read back the summary of comments and confirmed with the Committee members that she had captured their concerns.

Ms. Fraser asked Dr. Watson-Creed to meet and discuss her comments with staff after the meeting, adding that she understood what she was saying but want to communicate it in a way that the entire document will not have to be re-written.

The following comments were put forward in regard to Chapter 2 – Environment:

- The definition of Greenbelting is weak and does not capture what the Committee is striving for.
- Should state that there is the potential to expand the riparian buffer to 30m and explain how this can be done.

The Chair suggested that at the Committee’s next meeting a segregated discussion be held on Greenbelting to see if there is room for compromise. She added that she felt it was important to bring the issue back to the table and compare the Greenbelting as proposed by HRMAlliance with what is in the Draft Plan.

- Clarify Greenbelting in the introduction and have it consistent throughout the document.

The following comments were put forward in regard to Chapter 4 – Transportation:

- The Ferries should be mentioned.
- Chapter on Active Transportation is confusing – need a delineation between active transportation and recreation active transportation
- Foot traffic in the Active Transportation Plan is not in the Plan
- Would like to see the Parking Strategy noted in the Plan
- Transportation Corridors – would like to know who they are identified as well as how they are protected.

The Chair advised that due to time constraints, the discussion on the Transportation Chapter would carry over to the next meeting. Noting that Councillors Mason and Watts had prepared notes of their comments, she asked the Councillors to forward their notes to staff, in particular, Mr. Dave McCusker.

7. **ADDED ITEMS** - None
8. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - April 17, 2013
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant