

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES

May 6, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair  
Mr. Eric Burchill  
Mr. Geoff Le Boutillier  
Ms. Joanne Macrae  
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Waye Mason  
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Fred Morley, Vice Chair  
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed  
Mr. Bill Book  
Mr. Peter Moorhouse

STAFF: Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning and Infrastructure  
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure  
Mr. Richard Harvey, Interim Project Manager  
Ms. Kasia Tota, Community Design  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

As Ms. Godsoe was going to be late arriving to the meeting, Mr. Burchill called the special meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None**

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

**MOVED by Mr. Le Boutillier, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the agenda be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS: None**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**5.1 Correspondence: None**

**5.2 Petitions: None**

**5.3 Presentations: None**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Staff:**

**6.1.1 Review of Draft Regional Plan**

The following was circulated to the Committee:

- Draft 3 Chapter 2: Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- Draft 2 Chapter 6: The Regional Centre
- First Draft Chapter 8: Municipal Water Services, Utilities and Solid Waste
- Submissions from Committee members outlining their comments and suggested revisions to the Draft Regional Plan:
  - Councillor Mason dated May 5, 2013 re: Notes for Drafts 2/3 of RP5
  - Councillor Watts Dated May 5, 2013 re: Section 8.8 Community Energy
  - Councillor Mason dated May 6, 2013 re: Draft 3 of Chapter 2
  - Mr. Geoff Le Boutillier dated May 6, 2013 re: Chapters 2, 6 and 8
  - Councillor Watts dated May 6, 2013 re: Chapter 4

Mr. Burchill provided an overview of the chapters being reviewed at today's meeting. It was noted in the essence of time the Committee would focus on Chapters 6 and 8, as well as review the revisions brought back for Chapter 2 (Draft 3). It was noted that if time permitted the Committee would revisit Chapter 4: Transportation and review additional revisions being proposed by Councillors Mason and Watts.

Draft 3 of Chapter 2: Environment, Energy and Climate Change Review

The following suggested revisions and points were made:

- Request for staff to review the possible addition of Shubie Park (Dartmouth) to Table 2-3: Regional Parks
- Reference was made to Mr. Le Boutillier's email of May 6, 2013 outlining:
  - Councillor Mason's May 5<sup>th</sup> email on suggested improvements for "Greenbelting"; and
  - Consideration of the use of Councillor Watts' proposed wording for SU-345: The Community Energy Plan outlined in her email dated May 5, 2013  
*"...consideration of energy security, energy consideration, energy distribution and energy consumption into all aspects of HRM's municipal activities. The Community Energy Plan will continue in its goal of using proven, integrated and systematic approaches to integrated urban energy planning in a collaborative approach with identified community stakeholders."*

Mr. Burchill advised that staff would review the proposed revisions brought forward, track changes made and bring back in a subsequent revised version for the Committee's review.

In reference to the suggestions, Mr. French advised that quoting from the Community Energy Plan would not be consistent with the other formats in the Plan, but suggested that the document could be reference by providing an online link.

Councillor Watts highlighted points outlined in her May 5<sup>th</sup> email respecting The Community Energy Functional Plan:

- achieving renewable energy
- the possibilities around natural gas
- recognizing partnerships with other groups
- broadening beyond not only corporate, but also community energy consumption

and provided an example where theoretically under the current conditions of the Plan, programs such as Solar City could not function. Councillor Watts indicated that she was prepared to put a motion on the floor to include wording that draws on looking at updating new opportunities for geothermal, solar and wind, HRM's concerns around natural gas, HRM's recognition that there is a patchwork of partnership, as well as, the proposed wording for SU-354.

The Committee recognized Councillor Steve Craig who was in attendance and allowed him to provide his comments.

Councillor Craig noted his observation from the discussion held at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting around renewables. He stated that the section for renewables was heavily weighted towards wind energy, but identified that there is a need for a broader scope of information required for alternate renewables such as geothermal, solar and methane capture.

Staff reviewed Section 2.5.3: Wind Energy and the aspects around The Community Energy Plan, as well as the policy amendments identified on page 16. It was noted that staff would revisit this section and look into broader wording around future actions for renewables. Councillor Craig noted the importance of defining leadership in this section.

Ms. Macrae exited the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

In response to concerns raised respecting listing the actual technologies themselves, staff suggested that explanation of the technologies could be provided in the communication piece.

In response to a procedural question raised on having other Councillors provide input to the Committee on the Draft Regional Plan, Mr. Burchill suggested that the Chair could discuss this possibility with staff and perhaps have staff provide a procedural interpretation; but in the interest of time, the Committee welcomed input from the Councillors in attendance at today's meeting.

Councillor Mason provided an overview of his proposed revisions to Section 2.2 Greenbelting, as identified in his May 5<sup>th</sup> email submission. It was noted that these suggestions would be included as part of staff's review of feedback received.

Additional discussion was held on the use of the word "Greenbelting" and the suggestion around the implementation of a Greenbelting strategy shown on the Generalized Future Land Use Map (Map 2), which would be re-titled Greenbelting Strategy (addressed in Councillor Mason's May 5<sup>th</sup> suggestions).

Ms. Godsoe entered meeting at 12:06 p.m.

In response to Councillor Mason's proposed revisions, Mr. French noted that the revisions to Chapter 2 would have significant implications to Chapter 3 and that both chapters need to match up. It was noted that staff would give further consideration to the wording in Chapters 2 and 3 based on proposed revisions provided to date and provide revised versions for the Committee's review on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Under Section 2.3.4: Floodplains, Councillor Craig questioned who has the authority to determine the designation of a floodplain and asked staff to review. He identified two floodplains; the Sackville River and Little Sackville River and provided a map of the areas to staff.

Further points made by the Committee:

- Reference was made to 2006 Regional Plan Review decision to focus growth in growth areas
- Reference made to Stantec report presented to the Committee April 17, 2013; interesting snapshot of what to consider and the need to have greater clarity

around greenbelting; report references having two options for greenbelting with suggestion being made to having this when going to public consultation

Mr. Burchill stepped down as Chair at 12:18 p.m. and Ms. Godsoe assumed the Chair.

#### Draft 2 of Chapter 6: The Regional Centre Review

Councillor Mason suggested combining the Regional Centre section with the Capital District section. Reasons for doing so outlined in Councillor Mason's Notes dated May 5, 2013; highlights include:

- EC2 must not contain an unconstrained mention of "commercial, service and support use"
- EC6 Private Business Parks – needs work; how will HRM constrain this; what is the role of retail; how to recognize complete communities and new urbanism, etc...
- 6.5 should mention the Strategic Urban Partnership was adopted by Council because of the Economic Plan recommendations, tie it to the Economic Plan
- RP 2006, Capital Ideas, and the Economic Plan all refer to a Capital District or Urban Core
- That a commercial/business heart of HRM be defined in this section
- The removal this section from the document is out of the scope without explicit direction from Council
- That the Capital District/Urban Centre be identified as a business, retail and cultural destination that requires investment and planning that exceeds the requirement of the rest of the regional centres
- That the Capital District/Urban Centre be recognized as a one of the several possible locations for business, on par with industrial and business parks, as it was in the last Regional Plan
- That this business area be treated from HRM's point of view as an co-equally important collection of interests, neighbourhoods and BIDs that require cohesive planning; ensure that areas be planned all together as the essential economic driver and tax generator for HRM
- Re-introduce Regional Centre section as 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 and the rest of the chapter, edited for current statistics, realities and language
- The Capital District name has been used by HRM consistently and is clear and descriptive

Mr. Richard Harvey, Interim Project Manager provided an overview of the boundaries within the Regional Plan over the course of the next five years, noting that the main change has been within the downtown core (Regional Centre). He noted that for the scope of the Regional Plan if Council wanted to have some flexibility on documents such as the Economic Strategy, it would be wise to continue to focus on the Regional Centre (ie. boundaries stay within the geographical areas of the Regional Centre) which would enable HRM to make strategic investments for certain different concepts over time.

Further points made:

- Recognize that the Regional Centre is a growth area within the Economic Strategy
- Concerned that the Cogswell project is not identified within the five year plan; perhaps the inclusion of the words "for example"
- Suggestion made under RC-3 of The Centre Plan to include wording, perhaps in brackets, to identify what HRM will be doing under the Downtown Halifax Secondary Planning Strategy

Councillor Masson exited the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Mr. Burchill exited the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Additional suggestions made:

- Second Paragraph of Section 6.3 The Downtown Halifax Plan: insert the word "timely" in regard to predictable outcomes and provide clarification of targets in relation to the need for density as it applies to growth areas
- Reference given to comments provided for in Councillor Watts' May 5<sup>th</sup> email

#### First Draft of Chapter 8: Municipal Water Services, Utilities and Solid Waste Review

The following points and suggestions were made:

- Concerned with the lack of demographic representation in the downtown core; HRM needs to identify which demographics are lacking in representation and try drawn them into the core

In response to a request for clarification regarding Section SU-6(a), Mr. French indicated that decisions made for service expansions would always involves public process.

- SU-2: request for status update on infrastructure charges (ie. transportation related charges) as there are three different categories

In response to questions raised regard when the information is presented to Council, staff provided the following clarification:

- Hyperlinks will be provided for all HRM's case studies referenced in the Plan; if additional verbiage is required it will be provided in a campaign document
- A planning document and fact sheet will also be provided which will identify all changes made to the Plan

Discussion ensued on Section SU-7(a), staff advised that they would seek clarification from legal in regard to alternations to the current by-law to accommodate unique scenarios where changes/amendments to secondary handling systems are in place or soon to be installed.

Ms. Macrae re-entered meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Staff responded to questions regarding area charges and permissible locations for service installations. Suggestion was made to highlight geographic areas that would be impacted by these ongoing changes to infrastructure, whether they be proposed or implemented.

Clarification was provided in relation to discussion on stormwater management and floodplains.

In response to question raised respecting the percentage target set for solid waste diversion (Section 8.8 Solid Waste/Resources Management), it was noted that staff would review and provide clarification.

#### Discussion on Proposed Revisions to Chapter 4: Transportation

Councillor Watts reviewed her and Councillor Mason's collaborative proposed revisions to Chapter 4's objectives, and circulated a hard copy at the meeting for the Committee and staff's review. It was noted that staff would review the suggestions to ensure that there are no operational issues or policy implications, incorporate where appropriate, flag areas where there may be concerns and bring back the revised version of the Chapter for the Committee's review.

Additional discussion was held on Chapter 4's objectives with staff responding to questions and providing additional clarification.

7. **ADDED ITEMS: None**
8. **NEXT MEETING DATE – May 15, 2012**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Krista Vining  
Legislative Support