

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 30, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Ms. Joanne Macrae
Mr. Geoff Leboutillier
Mr. Eric Burchill
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Peter Moorhouse
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Mr. Bill Book
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning
Ms Susan Corser, Project Coordinator
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Bill Moore, Deputy Chief, Halifax Regional Police

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 2, 2013 and October 9, 2013.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None	3
5.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS: None.....	3
6.	DISCUSSION – Process for Review of Regional Plan	3
7.	ADDED ITEMS	6
8.	NEXT MEETING DATE: November 8, 2013.....	6
9.	ADJOURNMENT	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mr. Morley that the minutes of October 2, 2013 and October 9, 2013 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. LeBoutillier that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS: None

6. DISCUSSION – Process for Review of Regional Plan

The following motion was passed at the October 10, 2013 meeting of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting:

“The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request staff, through the CAO, to design (in consultation with the Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee) and engage in a process with CDAC to identify the Committee’s remaining areas of concern in each of the four regional plan themes identified in the July 2011 staff report – sustainable solutions, enhancing the regional centre, improved suburban and rural design, land and transit/active transportation – and work to resolve these issues through further revision to the draft plan and/or alternative policy for consideration by Council that, if possible addresses those issues and report back to Committee of the Whole on or before November 28, 2013.”

Today’s meeting was called for the purpose of holding a discussion to confirm the process for final review of the proposed revisions to the Regional Plan for report to Regional Council.

The Chair introduced Mr. Bill Moore, Deputy Chief of Police, and indicated that he was asked, and has agreed to act, as a facilitator to assist the Committee and staff in working thorough the Committee’s concerns with the Draft Plan.

Deputy Chief Moore addressed the Committee advising that his role is to help move this matter forward, and that he will be focusing on the process to move it forward and not delving into the content. He stated that his purpose today is to see if there is agreement

to work on the issues and, if so, to set ground rules for the meeting on November 8 for discussion on those issues. He suggested that the Committee put together a list of items of concern for the meeting on the 8th, and set aside the items there is agreement on.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk indicated that the desired outcome of the meeting on November 8 will be a list of the Committee's issues that will have been captured on flipcharts and in the minutes. This list will then be turned into a report from the Committee which will be signed by the Chair.

At 12:25 p.m. Councillor Nicoll entered the meeting.

Councillor Mason advised that the Committee wants Regional Council to have the ability to make an informed decision, and suggested that that Council needs to have a clear articulation of what the alternative is.

Councillor Watts advised that it would be helpful for the Committee to put forward motions at the meeting on the 8th as it will provide clear direction as an alternative for Council's consideration.

Mr. Moore indicated that if the Committee wished to proceed with motions, there should be rationale provided in support of the motion. He explained that if there is a discrepancy in what staff and the Committee are recommending, Regional Council will want to know why there is a discrepancy.

At 12:33 p.m. Mr. Moorhouse entered the meeting.

Mr. Morley advised that one of the things which caused concern with the Committee was in not knowing the impact a particular policy would have, and just accepting on faith. He added that he felt it would be useful--and it could remove some fear among the Committee--if there was a process of rapid evolution of the document, e.g. some type of a review process or appeal process. He advised that having a process like that would provide a release valve for approval of the document.

Ms. Mellett advised that the suggestion of having a review process for evaluation and for performance could be a recommendation to be captured in the Committee's report.

Councillor Nicoll advised that once the issues have been captured, it is also important to tell the story of the original Regional Plan to Council. The Chair advised that this could be a pre-amble in the report.

To clarify the reporting process to Regional Council, Ms. Mellett explained that staff will be writing a report with their recommendations to Regional Council in regard to the RP+5 process. The Committee will be working toward providing its comments and recommendations to Council and this will be in a separate report to Council.

Ms. Macrea advised that it would be beneficial if, in advance of the meeting on the 8th, a one-page, point form description of the issues could go out the Committee members. It would provide clarity and the Committee would be ready to being immediately in discussing the issues when the meeting started.

Ms. Macrae questioned how staff view the current situation with the Draft Plan, i.e. are staff willing to move on changes to the Draft or does staff consider Draft 3 completed.

In response to Ms. Macrae`s question, Ms. Fraser emphasized that it is much easier for staff to have a discussion if the issues are clearly articulated. She added that staff are willing to listen and move on issues where they can.

The Chair advised that after the meeting on the 8th, the Committee report would be drawn up and circulated to the Committee, and on the 15th the Committee will meet and, if there is agreement, then she will sign the report. She noted that she would not want to sign-off on a report unless the Committee has reviewed it and in agreement.

In advance of the November 8, 2013 meeting Councillor Mason referred to the four rural settlement areas and asked for information on how much has already been approved.

Councillor Watts referred to the map she brought in and asked for it to be updated to include the water service boundary and the proposed urban transit boundary.

Mr. LeBoutillier advised that on November 8, 2013 at noon time, there is a discussion on Greenbelting at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. He added that he would like to attend this event, and thought that other members may as well, and asked if the meeting time could be moved to reconvene after 2:30 p.m. to make up the time which may be missed by members attending the Greenbelting discussion.

A brief discussion ensued and Ms. Fraser expressed concern that the Committee would lose momentum if it the meeting recessed at noon time. She added that staff were planning to bring in lunch in order that the Committee continue working through this time.

Mr. Moore also expressed concern that the Committee would lose momentum if it recessed for lunch

In closing the discussion, the Chair question if everyone was clear on the process going forward.

Councillor Mason noted that he was preparing a document of the Committee member`s comments which have been e-mailed to him and he hoped to have it finalized and circulated by this Friday.

In summary, Mr. Moore advised that in his view there has been tacit approval to move ahead. He asked Councillor Mason to send the document to him when he circulates it

to the Committee; and he asked the Committee members to bring all relevant documents with them to the meeting on November 8, 2013.

The Chair concluded by requesting round-table feedback on today`s meeting.

7. **ADDED ITEMS** - None

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** November 8, 2013

Mr. Moorhouse provided his regrets for the meeting on the 8th.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant