



**COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 29, 2014**

PRESENT: Fred Morely, Chair
Gaynor Watson-Creed, Vice-Chair
Eric Burchill
Geoff LeBoutillier
Bill Book
Peter Moorhouse
Dale Godsoe
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey

STAFF: Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner/Director of Planning and Development
Jacob Ritchie, Manager Urban Design
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Community Design Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/CDACOctober292014Agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. noting that Dale Godsoe had resigned as Chair and consequently the first order of business at this meeting will be the election of a new Chair. He went on to note that, if required, an election for Vice-Chair will also be held. The election (s) will be administered by the Deputy Clerk.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Deputy Clerk briefly reviewed the process for election of Chair noting that an election for Chair is held annually.

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chair for the Community Design Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Godsoe, seconded by Councillor Mason that Mr. Fred Morely be nominated to serve as Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term of October 2014 to November 2015.

Mr. Morely accepted the nomination.

The Deputy Clerk called a further three times for nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

A vote on the nomination was called and **the MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the Community Design Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Mr. LeBoutilier, seconded by Mr. Book that Ms. Gaynor Watson-Creed be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee for a term of October 2014 to November 2015.

Ms. Watson-Creed accepted the nomination.

The Deputy Clerk called a further three times for nominations.

MOVED by Mr. Burchill, seconded by Mr. Book that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

A vote on the nomination was called and **the MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 22, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Ms. Godsoe that the minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting of the Community Design Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE
5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE
7. REPORTS
- 7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Presentation 2012 Public Engagement & Current State (Update)

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff presentation entitled 'HRM by Design, The Centre Plan, Report on Community Engagement, Abridged Presentation from October 2012*

Mr. Jacob Ritchie, Urban Design Manager delivered the presentation giving an overview of the Community Engagement Report including the Public Meetings, the Boundary Changes, the Outreach and Participation, the Developers and Public Feedback and Key Lessons gained from the process. He went on to give a current status report outlining the direction for the Plan and providing current status updates relative to the following:

- Plans & Zoning in Low Density Residential Areas
- Development Agreement Policy for Downtown Dartmouth & the Regional Centre
- Local Piped Service Capacity Study
- Opportunity Sites in Downtown Dartmouth
- Dartmouth Cove Traffic Study
- Heritage Conservation Districts
- Fairview Commercial District
- Five Year Review of the Downtown Plan

Mr. Ritchie, referring to the Development Agreement Policy for Downtown Dartmouth and the Regional Centre, indicated that staff is targeting public consultation in early 2015. The Committee requested that staff review with the Committee the details of the of the Development Agreement policy review. Mr. Ritchie went on to confirm that the target for completion of the Centre Plan project was 2016. Members stressed that the Committee should also receive information relative to the Fairview Commercial District.

7.1.2 Presentation of Proposed Terms of Reference

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff memorandum dated October 24, 2014 with attached proposed Terms of Reference*
- *Correspondence from Phil Pacey, Halifax*

Mr. Ritchie provided a brief overview of the Terms of Reference noting that the original Terms of Reference was used as the basis. He reviewed the content of the Terms as set out in the discussion section of the October 24, 2014 memorandum and responded to questions.

The Chair reviewed the correspondence received from Mr. Pacey and following a brief discussion, **the Committee agreed to refer this correspondence to the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee in conjunction with staff's report to the Committee regarding the Terms of Reference.**

7.1.3 Presentation and Discussion of Engagement Strategy, Centre Plan 2014-15

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff presentation dated October 29, 2014 entitled 'Centre Plan Project Reintroduction and Workplan'*

Mr. Ritchie delivered the presentation introducing the Centre Plan Vision and Principles. He outlined that the Centre Plan project will reconsider all policy in place on the Peninsula and within the circumferential highway in Dartmouth to address both inconsistency and duplication which causes confusion in implementation. Mr. Ritchie noted that the plan policies in force date back to the late 1970's and consequently have the potential to create risk in terms of the growth prescribed in the Regional Plan. He went on to describe the Centre Plan Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) as being comprehensive and integrating existing plans and policy documents (e.g. 2011-2016 Economic Strategy, Transportation Demand Management Plan, and the Transit Service Plan). Mr. Ritchie indicated that the Centre Plan Land Use By-law (LUB) will unify and simplify zoning throughout the regional centre. The new Centre Plan MPS and LUB will define how the growth targets set out in the Regional Plan can be supported in a way that strengthens already successful neighbourhoods.

Mr. Ritchie then went on to provide detail on the project including an overview of the team involved, the Phases the project will proceed through to approval and implementation in 2016, and the Engagement Strategy and Tools. Concluding his presentation, Mr. Ritchie provided the immediate next steps which include:

- Drafting of RFP and Procurement of Consulting Support (MPS)
- Assembly of Supporting Teams (Communications, IT Technicians and Administration)
- Complete Ongoing Technical Studies
- Assembly of Internal Cross Functional Working Group on Centre Plan Land Use By-law

During and after his presentation, Mr. Ritchie responded to a variety of questions and received input from the Committee. With reference to the term sustainable, it was agreed that an operational definition would be required. Concern was expressed that there was no sense that the Regional Centre is the economic hub of HRM and the Province. The Centre Plan must enable economic growth in the center. The guiding principles of the project will not change, so the approach is vital to ensuring this key factor is considered. In terms of staying focused on the job at hand, a new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law is the ultimate goal, however, there will be smaller goals along the way.

Discussion of the centre plan must be inclusive and thorough and care must be taken in the approach. The existing plans were developed in the 1970's but some of the policies continue to work well. A detailed review of the existing plan in a new context will result in a new plan. When speaking to a 1970's plan emphasis must be placed on what is working well and that neighbourhoods/communities can learn from each other to spread this good planning around. Note was made that the engagement strategy must be designed in such a manner as to recognize that residents will speak to the Plan from the local perspective. Rather than speaking of neighbourhoods, the context should be areas and whether this area requires a specific approach.

With reference to engagement, the Committee suggested that engagement with larger stakeholder groups (e.g. the Chamber, HRM Alliance) should be considered early in the process. Universities, Hospitals and Halifax Regional School Board should also be recognized as stakeholders.

7.1.4 Meeting Schedule – 2014/2014

The following was before the Committee

- A 2014/15 revised meeting schedule

The revised meeting schedule was accepted as distributed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

As per the schedule approved above, the next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, November 26, 2014 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Clerk