

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 29, 2014

PRESENT:

Design Review Committee

Ramzi Kawar, Chair
Kourosh Rad, Vice Chair
Noel Fowler
Louis Lemoine
Roy McBride
Steve Murphy

Heritage Advisory Committee

Ms. Emma Sampson, Acting Chair
Mr. Brent Ronayne
Ms. Pascale van der Leest
Ms. Janet Morris
Mr. Jason Cooke
Mr. Adam Matheson
Mr. Chris Kingston
Councillor David Hendsbee

STAFF:

Austin French, Manager, Planning Applications
Bill Plaskett, Heritage Planner
Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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1. RP+5 – REGIONAL MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY REVIEW

This item was addressed jointly with the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC). The reason for the joint meeting was to allow the Design Review Committee (DRC) to hear the recommendation made by the HAC and listen to its discussion about the changes to standards and guidelines.

A staff report dated January 14, 2014 was submitted.

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, Planning and Infrastructure, presented the staff report and recommendations. His presentation included the following elements.

- An overview of the recommendations before the committees and an explanation of the policy advisory role of the HAC and the DRC.
- A review of the regional planning process and framework, the scope of the RP+5 review, and an explanation that altering the Regional Plan affects various pieces of heritage legislation which will require amendment.
- Changes in legislation will be grandfathered into appropriate by-laws and plans.
- The members were reminded that the HAC provided a memo in July 2013 supporting the proposed changes to Standards and Guidelines in principle.
- The key changes that will result from updating the Conservation Standards and Guidelines in line with the Parks Canada approach which follows international best practice. The changes will provide greater clarity and predictability.
- An overview of the changes to the Halifax Downtown Municipal Planning Strategy proposed amendments to be considered by the DRC
- New powers provided to the municipality under changes to the Heritage Property Act, including the ability to designate cultural landscapes and public building interiors and changing the demolition delay for heritage properties from one to three years.
- The HAC will have an ongoing role in the development of a Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan which will involve an extensive inventory of heritage assets.
- The revised regional plan will provide HRM the ability to designate new Heritage Conservation districts.

Mr. French concluded his presentation and invited members of the HAC to consider the staff recommendation.

The Chair invited questions and discussion.

A member of the DRC asked for a definition of the notice of intention and its place in the process of public hearing. Staff responded that a notice of intention is a public notice issued in the newspaper. Once it is issued there is a period in which no development can be approved under the old rules.

Ms. van der Leest asked about the status of the debate on heritage conservation district boundaries. Mr. French clarified that this will come to the HAC as a separate report.

There was discussion among members regarding what would happen in the event that a new edition of the Standards and Guidelines is introduced, and if changes should be immediately reflected in HRM policy. Staff clarified that the 3rd edition isn't expected before new review of the Regional Plan.

Councillor Hendsbee asked for clarification regarding the scope of heritage assets to be included in the inventory. Mr. French replied that it would include provincial and national heritage assets located in HRM, as well as municipally registered heritage buildings and that the process will include extensive public consultation.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the HAC recommend that Regional Council give first reading and schedule a public hearing to consider:

1. **repealing the existing HRM *Regional Municipal Planning Strategy*;**
2. **adopting the proposed HRM *Regional Municipal Planning Strategy* as contained in Attachment A;**
3. **adopting the amendments to the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy;**
4. **adopting the amendments to By-law H-200, the Heritage Property By-Law, as contained in Attachment F;**
5. **adopting the amendments to the Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District Revitalization Plan, as contained in Attachment G; and**
- 6 **adopting the amendments to By-Law H-500, the Heritage Conservation District (Barrington Street) By-Law, as contained in Attachment H.**

It is further recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. a) **amend the proposed amendments to By-laws H-200 and H-500 to allow consideration of applications to substantially alter a heritage property which were on file on or before the date of the first publication of the notice of intention to adopt the amendments and which were being considered subject to the Heritage Building Conservation Standards that were in effect at the time the complete application was received; and**
- b) **that where any application is withdrawn, significantly altered, or rejected by Council, any new development proposal shall be subject to all applicable requirements;**
2. a) **amend the proposed amendments to the Barrington Street Heritage Conservation District Plan and the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy to allow consideration of applications to substantially**

- alter a heritage property which were on file on or before the date of the first publication of the notice of intention to adopt the amendments and which were being considered subject to the Heritage Building Conservation Standards that were in effect at the time the complete application was received; and
- b) that where any application is withdrawn, significantly altered, or rejected by Council, any new development proposal shall be subject to all applicable requirements.
3. amend the *Downtown Halifax Land Use By-Law, Schedule S-1, Design Manual, section 4.5.6.* to replace the name "*Federal Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, 2nd Edition*".

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ramzi Kawar, Chair, Design Review Committee assumed conduct of the meeting asking members if they had any questions for staff.

In response to a question regarding changes to the Design Review Manual, Mr. French indicated that he did not believe there would be any changes. Staff has not found contradictions in the proposed amendments and the existing Design Manual with the exception of name of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

MOVED by Mr. Lemoine, seconded by Mr. McBride the Design Review Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider adopting the amendments to the *Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy* as contained in Attachment C of the January 14, 2014 staff report.**
2. **Adopt the proposed amendments to the Downtown Halifax Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy to allow consideration of applications to substantially alter a heritage property which were on file on or before the date of the first publication of the notice of intention to adopt the amendments and which were considered subject to the Heritage Building Conservations Standards that were in effect at the time the complete application was received and further, that where any application is withdrawn, significantly altered, or rejected by Council, any new development proposal shall be subject to all applicable requirements, as set out in staff's presentation of January 29, 2014 to the joint meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Design Review Committee.**

3. **Amend the Downtown Halifax Land Use By-law, Schedule S-1, Design Manual, section 4.5.6 to replace the name “Federal Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Historic Buildings in Canada” with “Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Planes in Canada, 2nd Edition as set out in staff’s presentation of January 29, 2014 to the joint meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Design Review Committee.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Design Review Committee meeting adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Clerk