

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE

MINUTES

October 4, 2006

PRESENT:

Dale Godsoe, Chair
Clarence Butler, Vice Chair
Paul MacKinnon
Cathy Carmody
Bernie Smith
Linda Garber
David Garrett
Kevin Riles
Councillor Sloane

REGRETS:

William Hyde
Paul Shakotko
Margot Young (absent)
Geoff Keddy (absent)
Kendall Taylor(absent)

STAFF:

Andy Fillmore, Capital District Urban Design Project Manager
Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - September 11, 2006

MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Mr. David Garrett that the minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition

9.1 **Local Architectural Expertise**

A discussion ensued regarding the resignation of Lydon Lynch Architects Ltd. from the project team.

The following was noted by Task Force Members:

- Concern was expressed regarding the outcome and course of the study without the presence of local designers;
- There is architectural expertise in the region;
- Lyndon Lynch should be formally replaced by another local architect;
- Staff should ensure that Lyndon Lynch participates as members of the public.

Responding to comments of the Task Force Members staff advised of the following:

- There was a conflict of interest between the Urban Design Study and another project that the firm was working on. The firm decided to continue its work on the other project;
- The Urban Design Study contract is with the Office of Urbanism who hired the Lyndon Lynch Architects Ltd;
- Lyndon Lynch's role was to provide architectural expertise.

Further discussion ensued and the following comments by members were noted:

- Consideration should be given too newly up and coming younger architects, this is an opportunity for them to showcase their talents;
- It was suggested that an advisory group of local architects be formed;
- Engaging students from NSCAD, the School of Architecture and the Universities

- was suggested;
- Local architectural expertise is critical to ensure that the history of Halifax does not get overlooked.

MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Mr. Clarence Butler that the Urban Design Task Force request a staff report on options for the inclusion of an architect on the project team and the participation of local architects on the Urban Design Study. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Urban Design Forum 1 Update

The Chair advised that a report has not been received from the consultant at this time. She noted that staff needs to ensure that the forums are representative of the community.

Mr. Fillmore provided an overview of the forum via power point presentation (a copy of the presentation on file) noting that the following principles were observed:

- Environment
- High Quality Development
- Heritage Protection
- Transportation
- Neighbourhoods
- Development Process

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Fillmore advised that these principles will be discussed in further detail as the study progresses.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Role of the Task Force

The Chair advised that the role of the committee is to ensure that its enriched experience and that there is buy into the process.

In response to Ms. Linda Garber, Mr. Fillmore advised that staff strongly encourage Task Force Members to attend the public forums.

5.2 Terms of Reference - Membership Selection

- A staff report dated October 3, 2006 was before the Task Force

MOVED BY Mr. Clarence Butler, seconded by Mr. David Garrett that the Urban Design Task Force recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference as outlined in the staff report dated October 3, 2006

A discussion ensued and it was moved by Ms. Linda Garber that the motion be amended to include a Councillor from Halifax and Dartmouth.

Amendment:

- 1) Delete the line in the Membership section of the existing Terms of Reference that reads "One (1) member from Halifax Regional Council."
- 2) Add three new lines that read:
 - One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls within, or partially within, the boundary of the Regional Centre, and is in Halifax.
 - One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls within, or partially within, the boundary of the Regional Centre, and is in Dartmouth
 - One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls entirely outside of the boundary of the Regional Centre, to be a member-at-large

MOVED BY Mr. Clarence Butler, seconded by Mr. David Garrett that the Urban Design Task Force recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference as follows:

- 1) **Delete the line in the Membership section of the existing Terms of Reference that reads "One (1) member from Halifax Regional Council."**
- 2) **Add three new lines that read:**
 - **One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls within, or partially within, the boundary of the Regional Centre, and is in Halifax.**
 - **One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls within, or partially within, the boundary of the Regional Centre, and is in Dartmouth**

- One (1) member of Regional Council whose polling district falls entirely outside of the boundary of the Regional Centre, to be a member-at-large
- MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

5.3 Subcommittees

The Chair suggested that a of Committee of the Whole be formed to discuss critical issues.

After a brief discussion the following motion was placed:

MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Ms. Cathy Carmody that the Urban Design Task Force establish a Committee of the Whole to discuss critical issues as required. MOTION PUT PASSED.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 E-mail dated September 14, 2006-re: Regional Centre Urban Design Plan Institutional Concerns

- A copy of an E-mail dated September 13, 2006 from re: Regional Centre Urban Design Plan institutional Concerns was before the Task Force.

Mr. Fillmore commented that rather than pursue the recruitment of additional members that the Task Force and staff encourage public participation in the forums.

Ms. Linda Garber pointed out that the maps that were provided at the forums were incorrect and requested that staff provide current maps.

7.2 Presentation

7.2.1 Best Practices in Urban Design

- A copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled Best Practices, Research Elements and Success Urban Study was before the Task Force.

Mr. Fillmore provided a brief overview on best practices. He advised that the report on the Capital District is available on the website.

Mr. Kevin Riles noted that a key area of concern is the design process, land economics and

the uncertainty of the application process.

7.2.2 Regional Plan - Urban Design

- A copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled Urban Design Study, Capital District was before the Task Force

At the request of staff due to time constraints this item has been deferred to the next meeting.

8. REPORTS:

8.1 MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

8.1.1 Councillor Sloane - Great Cities Conference Update

Councillor Sloane provided an overview of the conference noting that topics of discussion included graffiti, new design concepts and cultural landscape in proximity to tourism locations.

8.2 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

8.2.1 Heritage Properties vs Urban Development

At the request of Mr. Butler this item has been deferred.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Local Architectural Expertise

This item was discussed during the approval of the order of business. See page 3

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - December 6, 2006

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant

