

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE
MINUTES

August 13, 2008

PRESENT:

Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Bernie Smith
Mr. Frank Palermo
Mr. Bill Hyde
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Councillor Mary Wile
Ms. Linda Garber
Mr. Stephen Terauds
Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice-Chair

REGRETS:

Mr. Kendall Taylor
Mr. David Garrett
Ms. Cathy Carmody
Mr. Kevin Riles
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Ms. Margot Young
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Dawn Sloane

STAFF:

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Capital District
Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager of Heritage & Design
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services
Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner
Ms. Tiffany Chase, Communications Specialist, Heritage and
Urban Design, Capital District
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Godsoe called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - May 14, 2008 and May 21, 2008

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Ms. Garber, that the minutes of May 14, 2008 and May 21, 2008 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Correspondence dated August 05, 2008 submitted by Mr. Denault Blouin (Three Elephants, The Dinosaur and Compassion in the City)
- 8.2 Real Office Vacancy Rate 36% in HRM CBD? (Turner Drake & Partners Ltd.) - Mr. Phil Pacey

The Chair requested that items 6.1 and 6.2 be switched in sequence to address item 6.2 first.

MOVED by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. McKinnon that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES** - NONE

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - NONE

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.2 **Overview of Stakeholders Workshop of August 06, 2008**

The Chair advised that she, Mr. MacKinnon, Mr. Shatko, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Smith and Mr. Palermo were in attendance at the workshop of August 06, 2008. There was a document before the Task Force outlining the August 06 Stakeholder Implementation Workshop with the following topics discussed:

- Attendance
- Introductions and Agenda - Andy Fillmore

- Project Schedule & Overview - Tiffany Chase
- Development Approvals Process
- Design Review Committee
- Comments submitted following the workshop

A discussion ensued regarding the stakeholders workshop with the following concerns raised:

Mr. Shakotko advised that there appears to be an issue with the public vs. the developers; more clarification has to be given in order for the members of the public to have trust in the plan.

Mr. Hyde stated that there were concerns about who would be appointed to the Design Review Committee and who would appoint these members.

Mr. Fillmore gave the Task Force an overview of the materials circulated prior to the meeting. He advised that the "Summary of Key Issues" sheet followed the agenda of the workshop, which was in three pieces: Development Approval Process, the makeup and Function of the Design Review Committee, and the third piece was the Land Use By-Law. He proposed having another workshop in early September for the Land Use By-Law as they did not get to that during the workshop. He advised that there was another category, "Other", that held the items that did not fit in the other categories. He further advised that a response will be provided to the detailed notes and be shared with the Task Force before they are released.

Mr. Fillmore gave a detailed overview of the "Comments submitted following the workshop" and the "Design Review Committee", and took questions of clarification from the Task Force regarding the makeup and the Terms of Reference of the Design Review Committee.

Mr. Fillmore gave an overview on the flowchart of the Proposed Development Approval Process in Downtown Halifax with the Task Force requesting that the process should be rewritten by Staff to define it more clearly. Clarification is also needed for the grounds for appeal in the development process.

6.1 Current Working Draft of the Downtown Halifax Urban Design Study

Prior to the meeting, a package was circulated to the Urban Design Task Force containing the current working draft of the Downtown Halifax Urban Design Study, which included the following documents for their review in preparation for today's meeting:

- Secondary Planning Strategy (maps included)
- Land Use By-Law (maps included)

- Design Manual
- Public Realm Handbook
- Barrington Street Historic District
- Regional Plan Amendments

Due to time constraints, the UDTF was allotted until August 22, 2008 to thoroughly review the above mentioned documents and to then submit their comments to Staff for incorporation into the official Draft #2 of these documents, to be publicly released in September 2008.

An additional document - "Summary of Changes" was submitted to the Task Force to provide an overview of items that were changed from Draft #1 to Draft #2, and to highlight areas for discussion at today's meeting. Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, gave the Committee an overview and a discussion ensued with Mr. Fillmore clarifying comments and points of concern.

Mr. Shakotko retired from the meeting breaking quorum at 2:02 pm.

7. CORRESPONDENCE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence dated July 14, 2008 from Mr. Richard Peisinger (Halifax Shambala Centre)

This correspondence had been previously circulated to Mayor Peter Kelly and Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair of the Urban Design Task Force. Copies were circulated to the remainder of the Task Force at this meeting. The correspondence contained a request from the Halifax Shambala Centre to be invited to future HRMbyDesign stakeholder workshops or meeting. It was advised that the Chair sent out a letter to organizations and persons advising the reason for each invitee.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 and 8.2

An information item dated August 05, 2008 submitted by Mr. Denault Blouin with the subject: Three Elephants, The Dinosaur and Compassion in the City had been previously circulated to the Urban Design Mr. Blouin's letter and would be given consideration by the Task Force and Staff. The Chair advised that she recommends the review of this letter and "Real Office Vacancy Rate " submitted by Mr. Phil Pacey, President of Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Urban Design Task Force is scheduled for September 10, 2008 from 12 noon to 2:00pm at Halifax Hall, City Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant