

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE
MINUTES

November 10, 2010

- PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Mr. Lorne Perry
Mr. David Garrett
Mr. William Hyde
Mr. Patrick LeRoy
Mr. Frank Palermo
Ms. Mary Jane Adams
Ms. Sally Camus
Mr. Bernie Smith
- REGRETS: Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice Chair
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Mr. Stephen Terauds
Ms. Louisa Horne
Mr. Jim Lamplugh
- STAFF: Mr. Andy Fillmore, Urban Design Project Manager
Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner
Mr. Luc Ouellet, Planner
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

Final meeting of Task Force – minutes administratively approved

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. in the boardroom at the Waterfront Development Corporation Limited.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 29, 2010

MOVED by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Hyde that the minutes of September 29, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Amendment:

Item 4.2 will be dealt with prior to 4.1

MOVED by Ms. Camus, seconded by Mr. Smith that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Greenprint Update

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. Please see page 4.

4.2 Update re: Capital Ideas and 2011-2016 HRM Economic Strategy

A presentation was submitted.

A Goal document was submitted.

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Urban Design Project Manager, stated that the Capital Ideas proposal was being put into the Economic Strategy and; therefore, they were now really one in the same. He noted that he had been asked to be the team lead on this project for the Urban Core by the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP). He indicated that more detail on this initiative was provided in the submitted documents and that meetings with various groups such as government officials and private sector developers, a microcosm of the Strategic Urban Partnership, were taking place.

Mr. Fillmore advised that the Urban Core Committee had made three strong statements as follows: that the Urban Core was in a state of crisis, that huge change was needed at all three levels of government and that this change was required immediately due to the crisis position of the Urban Core.

Mr. Perry entered the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Fillmore presented more highlights of the initiative. In conclusion, he invited Committee members to review the document and submit any comments to him by November 19, 2010 as he must submit the document to the GHP by the end of the month.

At the suggestion of Mr. Hyde, Mr. Fillmore agreed that Action five on page three should be expanded to provide further information regarding what the adoption of a tripartite or urban development agreement would look like.

The Chair noted that she believed Winnipeg to be the first city to adopt a tripartite agreement and requested that staff investigate what other cities had done so as well.

Mr. Fillmore noted that he was optimistic that Halifax was in a significant moment of change.

4.1 Greenprint Update

Mr. Fillmore provided an update on the Greenprint document. He advised that, upon completing a staff workshop, staff have realized that they are under resourced. He indicated that he was drafting a memo with the workshop findings to the Director of Community Development as well as the Chief Administrative Officer as staff wished to establish a well resourced office as the Regional Plan had done. He stated that staff intended to finish the Greenprint document and to then write reports to the Task Force. In the meantime, he advised that staff were required to address several tasks including the creation of a new Regional Centre Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law which will include the Downtown Plan and a communications piece.

Councilor Wile entered the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

A discussion ensued on Mr. Fillmore's update and how to proceed as a result.

Mr. Fillmore advised that step one was having time to do the work to ask for the resources.

Regarding how the Task Force could aid in this process, the Chair suggested that they could say that they believe this is urgent, that it requires resources and that the timeframe and workplan staff have provided is realistic; therefore, the Task Force is in support. She stated that how staff decides it could best be done is up to them as long as the Task Force is convinced, without meddling, that the steps are reasonable.

Mr. Fillmore advised that he believed the Greenprint could still be done as it was now a Corporate Priority.

Mr. Fillmore indicated that he would like to have his memo to senior staff completed by the end of the week. He stated that new monies would need to be diverted to the project by creating a new position and that a staff report for Council's approval for budget

changes and posting positions would be required; noting that this approval would not occur until at least February of 2011. He stated that, as a result, the Task Force was in a hiatus as staff could not take the Greenprint to Council without resources.

Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner, suggested that the next piece of work to be done was to complete a new Regional Centre Plan and that it was within the mandate of the Task Force to say this is the best model to roll out as a plan, to form a Regional Centre wide group of resources. He noted that this would have to go to Council as a recommendation.

Mr. Fillmore advised that there would be a two year time frame after staff receive resources in order to have an integrated model. He advised that the next meeting would not be scheduled until staff could investigate and request resourcing and draft the details of a workplan.

The Chair advised that this was a much bigger project than originally thought; noting that the Task Force would support staff's initiative and would wait for them to come back with a plan.

4.2 Update re: Capital Ideas and 2011-2016 HRM Economic Strategy

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 3.

4.3 Discussion re: "Mobility" section of Greenprint

Mr. Perry submitted a document containing his comments regarding Mobility.

Issue Paper 35 from the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) was submitted.

Mr. Fillmore indicated that the Issue Paper 35 from CUTA had come from Mr. Dave Reage, Supervisor of Servie Design and Projects with Metro Transit, and this indicated that change was afoot.

The Chair stated that while transportation was not part of the Task Force's original mandate, corridors were, and corridors were where transit goes; noting that the Task Force would be championing rather than getting into detailed planning.

Mr. Fillmore indicated that the Mobility Chapter would fit into the Public Realm Chapter of the Greenprint.

A discussion ensued regarding what should be included in the Mobility Chapter of the Greenprint.

Mr. Perry presented his comments as included in his submitted document.

Mr. Palermo provided the following points regarding mobility:

- Cities must stop devoting so much money to the movement and parking of cars in downtowns as change must start at a conceptual level
- Change should not occur because there is a traffic problem in HRM but because it is advantageous for the downtown
- In the shorter term, there could be transit transfer points prior to getting onto the Peninsula
- He will not be leaving his car at home anytime soon as there is currently no alternative available

Mr. Smith noted that there was no alternative until HRM creates a better transportation system. He advised that he was in a group with Mr. Palermo's students who wished to take charge of one transit demo route in order to re-work it to see what difference could be made in six months by attracting people with ridership.

Ms. Camus noted that there has to be a cultural piece to mobility which would be selling a vision rather than a reaction.

Mr. LeRoy stated that the 25 year plan for Highway 102 was depressing as it included 12 lanes and indicated that he would provide those plans at the next meeting.

The Chair suggested that, after the hiatus, the Task Force draft the mobility chapter based on a staff report. She requested that members send any further comments and suggestions regarding mobility to staff.

Mr. LeRoy left the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Councillor Wile noted that it was unfortunate that HRM was losing the potential for light rail. She stated that Sweden has a successful light rail system in a town of only 152,000 people, despite the fact that HRM staff have stated that HRM does not have enough residents to make such a system work here.

In conclusion, the Chair advised that the Task Force had come to a decision that they would meet again when staff was ready to bring forward something they could support tangibly and, in the meantime, members could continue to make suggestions regarding the transportation and mobility chapter for the Greenprint.

- 5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE**
- 7. REPORTS - NONE**
- 8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant