

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE
MINUTES

December 12, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Mr. Bernie Smith
Mr. Frank Palermo
Mr. Bill Hyde
Ms. Linda Garber
Mr. David Garrett
Mr. Stephen Terauds
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Ms. Sally Camus
Mr. Kevin Riles
Councillor Jim Smith

ABSENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Ms. Margot Young
Mr. Kendall Taylor

STAFF: Mr. Andy Fillmore, Acting Supervisor, Heritage Design
Ms. Tiffany Chase, Communications Specialist
Mr. Austin French, Manager of Planning Services
Mr. Luc Ouellet, Planner
Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development
Ms. Kelly Denty, Supervisor, Planning Applications
Ms. Sandra Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. MacKinnon, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:43 a. m. in the Seminar Room, at The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax.

2. **INTRODUCTION - Chair, Ms. Dale Godsoe**

Mr. MacKinnon assumed the place of Chair in the absence of Ms. Godsoe.

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

MOVED BY Ms. Camus, seconded by Mr. Hyde, that the order of business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. **PRESENTATION: Review of Project Principles and Components**

Mr. Fillmore gave the Urban Design Task Force an overhead presentation on the Review of Project Principles and Components.

5. **A.M. BREAK - 15 Minutes**

6. **STAFF REPORT**

An HRMbyDesign - UDTF Briefing Note was circulated to the Task Force with the following points of discussion for today's meeting:

1. Heritage Protection Best Practices from Quebec City & Old Montreal
2. Downtown Halifax Heritage Districts
3. Coordination with Provincial Heritage Strategy
4. Removal of the Heritage District Functional Plan Due to Redundancy
5. The Need to Assign Heights on All Downtown Sites
6. Precinct 7 Heights (NSCAD block and Waterside Block)
7. Height assignments for Alexander site & Trillium site
8. St. Matthew's Church
9. Potential Atrium on Waterfront at Foot of Prince Street
10. Public Consultation in the Site Plan Approval Process
11. Cooperation with External Agencies
12. Replacement for Cash-in-lieu Parking Policy
13. Summary of findings of the Demand, Capacity, and Baseline Indicators Study
14. Summary of Legislative Amendments

15. Priorities for Council after Plan Adoption
16. Process for Plan Adoption

A discussion ensued for each outlined topic with questions of clarification.

Mr. Luc Ouellet gave a brief overhead overview of Item # 1.
Mr. Fillmore gave a brief overview of Item #2.

Mr. Bill Plaskett gave a brief overview to the UDTF on Item # 3, after which the following motion was passed:

MOVED BY Ms. Camus, seconded by Mr. Palermo, that the following recommendation be approved:

1. **Opportunities for synergy and cooperation with provincial objectives outlined in the Heritage Strategy of Nova Scotia will be explored during the development of the Regional Heritage Functional Plan.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Mr. Bill Plaskett gave a brief overview to the UDTF on Item # 4. A discussion ensued with questions of clarification, after which the following motion was passed:

MOVED BY Ms. Garber, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the following recommendation be approved:

1. **Amend the title of s.4.3 of the DHSMPS to “Downtown Halifax Heritage Districts,” and include recommendations #2, #21, and #45 from the Response to Public Comments document in the list of issues to be considered when creating an HCD.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Ms. Kelly Denty gave a brief overhead overview to the UDTF on Item # 5. A discussion ensued with questions of clarification, leading into discussion of Item #6.

The meeting recessed for a break at 11:27 a.m.

Councillor Jim Smith retired from the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:37 a.m.

There was a 3-D presentation given to the UDTF on Item # 6. A discussion ensued with questions of clarification, after which the following motion was passed:

MOVED BY Mr. Hyde, seconded by Mr. Smith, that a 70' pre- and post-bonus height be applied to Precinct 7 in its entirety, and that other heights may be applied as a result of the implementation of future Heritage Conservation Districts.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

7. LUNCH - 45-60 Minutes

The meeting recessed at 1:00 p.m. for a lunch break.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

8. STAFF REPORT - continued

Item # 7 - The Trillium

MOVED BY Mr. Smith, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the following recommendation be approved:

- 1. Assign a pre-bonus height of 125' and a post-bonus height of 160' to the Trillium site.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Item # 7 - The Alexander

MOVED BY Mr. Garrett, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the following recommendation be approved:

- 1. Assign a pre-bonus height of 125; and a post-bonus height of 160' to the Alexander site.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Item # 8 - St. Matthew's Church

MOVED BY Mr. Hyde, seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the following Staff alternative recommendation be approved:

1. Make no changes

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Ms. Garber retired from the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Mr. Palermo retired from the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Mr. Eric Burchill circulated a hard copy of and gave a 3D overview of Item # 9 - Potential Atrium on Waterfront at Foot of Prince Street. A discussion ensued with questions of clarification, and the following motion was passed:

MOVED BY Ms. Garber, seconded by Mr. Terauds, that the following recommendation be approved:

- 1. Maintain existing language in Draft 2 of the Plan that protects the views of the harbour from east-west streets.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Mr. Andrew Whittemore introduced Mr. Phil Hammond and Ms. Kasia Tota, who gave a brief overview of Item # 10. After questions of clarification, the following motion was passed:

MOVED BY Councillor Sloane, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the following recommendation be approved:

- 1. Require applicants to employ a public consultation process comprised of a combination of an Open House, a Kiosk, and a website component.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

The meeting lost quorum at 3:15 p.m with the retiring of Mr. Palermo.

Mr. Fillmore gave a brief overview of Item 11: Cooperation with External Agencies. No motions passed as no quorum.

Ms. Camus retired from the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Mr. Fillmore gave a brief overview of Item 12: Replacement for Cash-in-Lieu Parking Policy to the UDTF. No motions passed.

A brief overview was given of Item #13: Summary of findings of the Demand, Capacity, and Baseline Indicators Study. No motions passed. A draft from the consultant is in hand. It is under review by the Steering Committee. The Urban Design Task Force will be given the final draft for review.

Mr. Fillmore gave a brief overview of Item #14: Summary of Legislative Amendments. The Task Force was given a verbal update in the last meeting of November 26, 2008, where Councillor Sloane requested a written document.

A brief overview of Item # 15: Priorities for Council after Plan Adoption was given to the Urban Design Task Force. The comments were made by the UDTF over the last couple meetings. There will be an email based critique for this item.

Item #16: Process for Plan Adoption. Information item.

10. ADDED ITEMS

Information Item:

1. Correspondence submitted by Mr. Phil Pacey, President, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

There will be a Urban Design Task Force meeting on Monday, January 28, 2009, from 11:00 am to 2:00pm at Halifax Hall, City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37p.m.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant