

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**January 10, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Russell Walker  
Councillors: Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:** Councillor Steve Streach

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, A/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Wile the minutes of December 13, 2005 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS - Community Recreation**

An information report dated January 3, 2006 was submitted.

Ms. Carol Macomber, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture addressed Council and provided a presentation on the Council Focus Area of Community Recreation. In her remarks, Ms. Macomber reviewed the common themes which came out of the Council workshop with regard to Community Recreation; she noted the current initiatives which are underway and the various issues facing staff in regard to community recreation. In conclusion, Ms. Macomber advised that staff is seeking direction from Council on the following: support for community groups; refocus service delivery; develop partnerships, access/fee policies; capital investment in parks and facilities.

*At 10:18 a.m. Councillor Snow entered the meeting.*

Ms. Macomber, Ms. Karen McTavish, General Manager, Recreation, Tourism and Culture; Mr. Phil Townsend, Manager, Capital Projects, Real Property and Asset Management; and Mr. Bob Nauss, Regional Coordinator, Recreation Tourism and Culture responded to questions.

The following comments were put forward by members of Council:

- C staff consider partnering with the Department of Health Promotions
- C put more recreation staff out to the playgrounds and develop active programs for children

*At 10:20 a.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting.*

- C if playground equipment is removed and replacement equipment is scheduled, erect appropriate signage to inform the public

- C more funds need to be included in the budget for playground and recreation equipment
- C the Province should play a role in regard to Provincial sites to enhance playground activity
- C playground maintenance - if HRM accepts a playground, then community groups have to get involved and accept responsibility and carry out fundraising efforts.

*At 10:25 a.m. Councillor Becky Kent entered the meeting.*

- C need to work with the School Board to get access to the Schools
- C supportive of alternative programming and building partnerships (e.g. with Boys and Girls Clubs)
- C providing more community events will result in more community building.
- C HRM should take over the property management of schools
- C Tax structure needs to be changed

*At 10:32 a.m. Councillor Sloane entered the meeting.*

- C important to get playground leaders back out in the community, however, have to realize that every playground can not be staffed; therefore need to be strategic in staffing the playgrounds.
- C include community groups in the decision-making process.
- C need to offer affordable programs for youth; and provide programming outside the usual business hours
- C new developments should include recreational facilities
- C the Municipality plays the role of gap filler and the gap has grown as a result of downloading - need to look at the trends that result in the gap.
- C management agreements and partnerships - key is to develop criteria and determine how to evaluate
- C youth centre in Bedford is at risk of closing - a small number of volunteers are working hard to try and keep the centre open.
- C the Basinview School needs a community entrance.
- C important to get feedback from youth
- C the repair and replacement of existing playgrounds should occur before new programs are instituted.
- C communities are waiting too long for the replacement of their playgrounds; playgrounds should be installed the same year as they were placed in the budget.
- C disillusioned with management agreements - HRM is not at arms-length; the Municipality is taking too much control, and dollars are being lost because it is more expensive for HRM to carry out work than a community group.
- C suggestion that staff work with communities to determine who may be interested in accessible playgrounds in the Municipality.
- C budget limitations make it difficult to carry out all the initiatives put forward today; Council should therefore decide what things need to be fixed this year and do the

- work; and move forward the next and following years in the same way.
- C huge opportunity in the area of Sport Tourism
  - C HRM should continue to press the Province to exact the Capital Cost Contribution for recreation facilities.

**MOVED by Councillor Younger, seconded by Councillor Karsten that staff be directed to open discussion with the School Board in regard to improved access to schools for recreation purposes and that staff also discuss ways to improve entrance access to existing schools.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

*At 11:45 a.m. Councillor McCluskey entered the meeting.*

Discussion further ensued with additional comments being put forward as follows:

- C community groups are having difficulty in maintaining operation through the winter - Council needs to have a discussion on its procurement practices.
- C In response to a question by Councillor McCluskey concerning the cost of delivering service per person, Ms. MacTavish indicated that she was not aware of any recent figures but in 1997 an activity based costing exercise was carried out on Police and Fire. The Chair requested staff to provide to Council the report on the Activity Based Cost exercise in regard to Police and Fire, as referred to by Ms. MacTavish.

**FOCUS AREA - Community Development**

This item was deferred.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m. with Mayor Kelly in the Chair.

**FOCUS AREA - Policing**

This matter had been deferred from a Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled on December 13, 2005.

A report entitled, Public Safety (Police Resourcing) A Background and Discussion Paper, dated December 13, 2005 was submitted.

Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, and Supt. Gordon Barnett, RCMP,

addressed Council and provided a presentation in regard to the Council Focus area of Public Safety. Chief Beazley advised that with public safety being identified as one of Council's focus areas, the question was posed of whether or not HRM is adequately resourcing its police services to meet public expectations. He added that the report presented today is intended to outline the need for HRM to examine policing strategically to ensure it is positioned to respond to immediate and future public safety needs of its citizens.

*At 1:11 p.m. Councillor Murphy entered the meeting.*

Chief Beazley's presentation reviewed Councils' and the public's expectations. He outlined the demands placed on policing and how this has increased, noting comparisons between today and 30 years ago. As well, Chief Beazley reviewed statistical information noting the increased demands on police within the Halifax Regional Municipality over the past four years.

*At 1:25 p.m. Councillor McInroy entered the meeting.*

The Chief concluded the presentation by reviewing various initiatives, the future of policing and the decisions which will be required. He put forward two viable options for the short term and long term as follows: Short Term - 1. Increase resources/fund police to an effective level to meet public expectations and address the complex environment police find themselves in today; and 2. Integrated Community Response Model. Long Term - 1. Request that the Board of Police Commissioners review HRM Policing Services with a view to developing a long-term policing strategy; 2. Initiate dialogue with three orders of government to determine roles and responsibilities for national, provincial and municipal policing.

*At 1:28 p.m. Councillors Smith and Mosher entered the meeting.*

Chief Beazley and Supt. Barnett responded to questions.

*At 1:37 p.m. Councillor Fougere entered the meeting.*

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, second by Councillor Wile that:**

- 1. Council request the Board of Police Commissioners review HRM Policing Services with a view to developing an effective, long-term police resourcing strategy.**
- 2. Council request the Board of Police Commissioners to assess the impact of any changes to the service delivery model of policing resulting from upcoming negotiations of the Provincial Policing Contract.**

3. **Council initiate dialogue with the three orders of government to determine roles and responsibilities for national, provincial and municipal policing.**
4. **Request that the Board of Police Commissioners report to Council regarding the need for increased resources and police funding to ensure an effective level of policing which meets public expectations and which addresses the complex environment of the police service delivery model.**

Councillor McCluskey noted the presentation by Chief Beazley was very informative and that the public should be given a better opportunity to hear it.

Further discussion ensued with Chief Beazley and Supt. Barnett responding to questions.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk