

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

November 27, 2007

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

**REGRETS:** Councillors: Patrick Murphy  
Brad Johns

**STAFF:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None**

**3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS - STRATEGIC FOCUS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**(i) CAO'S Report**

C An Information Report dated November 27, 2007 was before the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Dan English, CAO, informed the Committee of the Whole that the Council Focus Areas would be reporting on the implementation of strategic initiatives.

Councillor Younger entered the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Councillor Hum entered the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

**(ii) Greater Halifax Partnership**

C A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before the Committee of the Whole.

C An Information Report dated November 21, 2007 was before the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Stephen Dempsey, President of the GHP, provided the presentation on the Greater Halifax Partnership. Highlights of his presentation were as follows:

C GHP plans to make use of existing organizations and partnerships that are driving economic growth in the community;

C Many organizations including, Nova Scotia Business Inc., the Provincial Department of Tourism and Destination Halifax sit on the Economic Strategy Committee;

C The Committee has two (2) main focusses; setting priorities and creating alignment;

- C There is a target of five million dollars in investments from the private sector that will be met by the end of the calendar year. This target will be surpassed by January;
- C GHP is partnering with the Nova Scotia Community College. They have launched a new young professionals organization called Fusion;
- C There will be a focus on immigration and youth over the next several months;
- C There will also be a focus on increasing the tax base.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Mr. Dempsey introduced his colleagues, Mr. Fred Morley and Mr. Jim Donovan, and stated that they would be speaking about specific accomplishments. Highlights of their presentation were as follows:

- C A big area to focus on is population growth. Growth has slowed slightly and university enrollment is down;
- C Government employment is tracking below the targets as well.
- C New challenges that HRM and GHP face are:
  - C Competition over young professionals;
  - C The Port of Halifax has been losing market share and container levels are down. This issue must be addressed as this is a vital industry in HRM;
  - C The merger of economic development organizations has delayed some elements of strategy implementation;
  - C To more aggressively pursue development initiatives in African Nova Scotian communities;
  - C Immigration issues; such as population growth will come from immigration;
  - C Constraints on office space in the downtown core.
- C A next step would be to develop a comprehensive people strategy; focussing particularly on youth and immigrants.
- C Rebecca Ryan's "handprint" is a very useful reference tool.
- C It is important to note that the joint report captures a lot of the important work in HRM.
- C As for implementation gaps; HRM and GHP must assign priorities and fast track social investment.
- C A joint regional transportation body should be set up. This needs to be linked to Gateway initiatives.
- C HRM should take advantage of the emerging green economy. It should work with partners to link economic growth to environmental sustainability.

Mr. Dempsey ended the presentation by stating that the fundamental issues that need to be addressed are to close the implementation gaps. A great deal of work has already been done, however, the work that is left in areas with gaps will be the hardest to complete

A discussion ensued with the representatives from GHP responding to questions. The following comments were noted:

- C In reference to the possible separation of HRM into urban and rural areas; Mr. Dempsey stated that GHP believes that the municipality should remain as one.
- C Concern was raised over the fact that HRM's port is only running at fifty percent (50%) capacity. Halifax has the second biggest harbour in the world yet it is lagging in this industry. It is necessary for the port to be run more efficiently. One suggestion would be to aggressively market capabilities.
- C With regards to population growth; immigration is actually up according to targets despite the recent immigration controversy.
- C There is a need for affordable housing to help entice young professionals to come to HRM.
- C Simple things can be done to entice young professionals to come to the HRM, things that excite them such as bike paths and new buildings.
- C Council would like to see the scorecard be as green as possible.

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 2:58 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole reconvened at 3:16 p.m.

#### **4. CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)**

- C A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before the Committee of the Whole.
- C An Information Report dated November 14, 2007 was before the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Jane Nauss and Inspector Greg Murray, HRP, provided the presentation on CPTED. Highlights of their presentation were as follows:

- C A good example of the CPTED principles being utilized from the ground up was the Irving site. Before the site was built the HRP was asked to do a CPTED audit. As a result of that no crime or theft has been committed on the property.
- C CPTED does not address the root causes of crime.
- C The four (4) principles of CPTED are access control, surveillance, territorial reinforcement and lighting.
- C Graffiti and litter are examples of urban decay. They would fall under the principle of territorial reinforcement.
- C One method used to combat graffiti as a form of territorial reinforcement is by painting murals.
- C It is much more expensive to do a retrofit than to use CPTED principles when developing.

C CPTED encourages Community Mobilization as a prevention tool

Councillor Fougere entered the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

A discussion ensued with Ms. Nauss and Mr. Murray responding to questions. The following comments were noted:

C There are simple, cost efficient methods which can be used to comply with CPTED principles.

C There are private companies now who pay for CPTED audits.

C As HRM approaches recapitalization projects it must act on a proactive basis.

**MOVED BY Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Sloane that HRM adopt CPTED principles in all future development on HRM owned property as well as all future development proposals come to staff that have CPTED training. Further, this include HRM owned parks, playgrounds and properties on an ongoing basis. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. HRM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN**

### **(i) Regional Plan Advisory Committee Report**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

### **(ii) Staff Report**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk