

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 11, 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Gloria McCluskey

STAFF:

Ms. Karen Brown, Senior Solicitor
Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14, 2013 and March 5, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the minutes of February 14, 2013 and March 5, 2013 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the In Camera Minutes of March 5, 2013 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Request for Staff Briefing Note on RP+5 Process (Councillor Nicoll)
- 8.2 Information Report dated February 18, 2013 – Regional Youth Advisory Committee (Councillor Nicoll)
- 8.3 Information Report dated February 26, 2013 – Comparative Analysis for Municipal Cultural Investments (Councillor Mason)

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS: None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations:

5.3.1 Local Immigration Partnership and Opportunity for HRM - ISIS

Ms. Gerry Mills, Director, Operations, Immigration Settlement and Integration Services provided a presentation on Local Immigration Partnerships and the opportunity for HRM to be the lead agency. In her remarks she explained the Local Immigration Partnerships were initiated by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in partnership with the Province of Ontario in 2009, as a way to provide ground-level funding to local and regional governments, recognizing they are most familiar with the needs of communities

they serve. She noted that there are now over 40 Local Immigration Partnerships across Ontario and Calgary with more being considered across the country.

Ms. Mills advised that a community forum was held on March 7, 2013 at which there was support shown for a Local Immigration Partnership to be created in HRM and there was overwhelming support for HRM to take the lead on this matter. She added that the benefit of HRM being the lead is that it is in alignment with HRM's updated immigration plan; it will demonstrate that Halifax is open to immigrants and provides a focus for creating a welcoming community; and it responds to HRM's current focus to become an internationally recognized city.

Ms. Mills explained that today she was requesting HRM consider negotiating a funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada for three-year funding to house the Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator.

MOVED by Councillor Watts seconded by Councillor Fisher that Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council request a staff report to determine the benefits and costs of having HRM negotiate a funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for three-year funding to house the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Coordinator.

At 2:32 p.m. Councillor Outhit entered the meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL/OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES: None

7. REPORTS

7.1 HRM and the Proposal for Regional Enterprise Networks (REN)

A staff report dated April 4, 2013 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council:

- Request that ERDT, when it implements the REN model, leave HRM intact
- Ask staff to begin discussions with the Province of Nova Scotia on:
 1. Strengthening collaboration between the Province and HRM on economic development promotion and support
 2. Developing new forms of financial support for economic development work in HRM, both urban and rural
- Ask staff to open discussions with RENS, once established, on ways to cooperate to strengthen economic development across the Province.

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations & External Affairs responded to questions of clarification.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Request for Staff Briefing Note on RP+5 Process (Councillor Nicoll)

Councillor Nicoll stepped down from the Chair to address this matter. Councillor Outhit assumed the Chair.

Councillor Nicoll indicated that the Community Design Advisory Committee (CDAC) was to provide regular updates to the Standing Committee with respect to the progress of their work in the review of the Regional Plan. She advised that, presently, staff has prepared a draft Plan, and the CDAC was reviewing the Draft, and once this was complete, an update would be provided to the Standing Committee. Councillor Nicoll added that, with the document posted on the web, and because Councillors were getting questions from the public, she was suggesting that staff provide Regional Council updated information on the process of the Regional Plan review as soon as possible.

**MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request that staff provide a briefing note to members of Regional Council on the RP+5 process, as well as the primer and fact sheets to help guide them through the Draft Plan.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

8.2 Information Report dated February 18, 2013 – Regional Youth Advisory Committee (Councillor Nicoll)

An information report dated February 18, 2013 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend adopting a community based approach for youth engagement as an effective means for reaching and sustaining diverse groups of various youth from all over the Municipality. Further, request staff meet bi-annually to review the current trends and issues with youth; and prepare a status report to update HRM's Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee of these trends and issues and the actions taken.

In moving the motion Councillor Nicoll indicated that she was pleased to see that Municipal staff will still be working in various ways to continue to engage youth.

Mr. Michael Labrecque, Deputy CAO clarified that the motion would have to be forwarded to Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Nicoll assumed the Chair.

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the Committee's ability to request staff reports and the Deputy CAO clarified that it is important for staff to have a clear understanding of Regional Council's priorities, therefore, requests to staff to prepare reports should be at the direction of Regional Council.

8.3 Information Report dated February 26, 2013 – Comparative Analysis for Municipal Cultural Investments (Councillor Mason)

An information report dated February 26, 2013 was submitted.

Councillor Mason advised that in response to the Information Report that was submitted, he had spoken with staff with regard to his request to establish a special arts and culture advisory committee. He added that he had prepared a motion in this regard and had it vetted through the appropriate staff.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council direct staff to establish an AdHoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, in accordance with the standard terms and reference of HRM advisory committees and for a term not to exceed December 2013. The purpose of the AdHoc Committee is to work with HRM Staff and the CPED Standing Committee:

- **To examine best practise models for how Municipalities which have enabled and support strong links between the professional arts and culture sector and the Municipality**
- **And, to examine how HRM may wish to engage citizens and stakeholders in providing input on matters related to professional arts & culture sector in HRM**
- **And, to examine best practise models and possible program directions HRM could undertake to support the professional arts and culture sector throughout HRM in support of the Regional Plan objectives and to inform the development of the Culture and Heritage Priority Plan.**
- **And, to report with recommendations in the areas to the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee for their review and consideration no later than December 31, 2013 in order to make recommendations to Regional Council in advance of the 2014-2015 budget process.**

Further, that Regional Council direct that the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee to be both the nominating and appointing body to the AdHoc Committee and provide governance overview and direction to the work undertaken by the Committee.

And Further, as there may be budget implications to support this Committee, that Regional Council request a staff report be provided to the next meeting of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing committee outlining any budget implications, staff support plan and provide the detailed Terms of Reference for review and recommendation by CPEDSC for approval by Regional Council

In response to a question, Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure advised that she was comfortable with the motion going forward.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 13, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant