

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 13, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey

STAFF: Mr. Derk Slaunwhite, Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Michael Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 11, 2013 and April 23, 2013

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes of April 11, 2013 and April 23, 2013 be approved.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Councillor Nicoll – Presentation Request - Irving Shipbuilding

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations: None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Update: Economic Development and the Auditor General's Report – Presentation and Report

A staff report dated May 2, 2013 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee approve Attachment B of the May 2, 2013 staff report, "A proposal for considering and implementing the recommendation of the report, Development through Partnerships – A Performance Evaluation." MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Rules of Order be suspended to allow discussion on the submitted report dated May 2, 2013. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations & External Affairs, addressed the Committee and advised that in response to Regional Council's motion to deal with the Auditor General's report, over the next five meetings of the Committee staff will present five basic questions from the Auditor General's Report for discussion and feedback from the Committee, with the aim to build common ground on these fundamental questions so that they will be a starting point when it comes to implementing the Auditor General's recommendations. He added that today's question is 'What is economic development?'

Mr. Bryant provided a definition of Economic Development and asked the Committee members for their comments.

Councillor Fisher questioned the term 'quantitative' and whether it was something the municipality could do.

Councillor Watts advised that, in her view, education is key in economic development and the Municipality has a role to play in this. Also important is the Municipality's work with other groups such as non-profits, those people in society that are marginalized, and that the Municipality is not necessarily limited to government. Additionally, she suggested that understanding and supporting diverse approaches are critical areas in economic development; as well as public space and amenities;

Councillor Mason suggested that a definition of economic development should include trying to grow the economy in a sustainable fashion.

At 2:28 p.m. Councillor Outhit entered the meeting.

Councillor Mason suggested that the Municipality has a role to play in health and public safety and that even if the Municipality is not directly involved in the delivery of these services, it needs to be having a dialogue about how that happens.

Mr. Bryant questioned the Committee members whether they felt the definition needs to say something about the rural parts of the Municipality, noting that there is mining, aquaculture, and agriculture and that maybe the Municipality needs to be more active in talking with the Provincial Government in those areas.

Councillor Outhit advised that transportation is very important to economic development. He referred to the Halifax to Moncton corridor and advised that HRM needs to look at partnering with the city and not compete with it. Other factors he suggested that need to be considered are: growing immigration, higher wages, tax structure, trades, and an economy based less on service industry.

In concluding the discussion, Mr. Bryant advised that he received good feedback with regard to a definition of economic development and that he will revise it to make it more HRM specific and bring it back at the next meeting.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

8.1 Councillor Mason – Request for Presentation

Councillor Mason advised that he would like to schedule a presentation for the June 13, 2013 meeting. It is a development proposal for the waterfront property at the foot of Sackville Street, entitled "Battle of Atlantic Place".

Councillor Outhit indicated he supported this presentation to the Committee and suggested that all councillors be invited to attend the presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit that a presentation be scheduled for the June 13, 2013 meeting regarding the proposed development, "Battle of Atlantic Place." MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Councillor Nicoll – Presentation Request - Irving Shipbuilding

Councillor Nicoll indicated that representatives from Irving Shipbuilding have advised they would like to update the Committee on the project regarding the Federal shipbuilding contract.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that a presentation be scheduled for the June 13, 2013 meeting regarding Irving Shipbuilding project.

Councillor Outhit advised that he would like the presentation to explain their plans with regard to parking at the site, as he was concerned with the hundreds of cars which will be added to north Barrington Street. Councillor Outhit suggested that members of the Transportation Standing Committee be invited to hear the presentation.

The Deputy CAO advised that city staff have been speaking with Irving about this issue and they are well aware of the Municipality's concerns, however, they have concluded that their present plan is their best course of action.

Councillor Watts suggested that all Councillors be invited to hear the presentation and in doing so, it would send a message to Irving that Councillors are concerned and want to discuss their transportation plans.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. **IN CAMERA:** None
11. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** June 13, 2013
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant