

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

February 13, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair  
Councillor Wayne Mason, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Derk Slaunwhite, Solicitor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 23, 2014**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the January 23, 2014 minutes be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher to defer Item 9.1 – Motion of Councillor Watts to the March 20, 2014 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Additions:

10.1 Notice of Motion: Ivany Commission Report – Councillor Mason

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda be approved as amended.**

**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

**6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGINAL COUNICL/ OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES:** None

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Destination Halifax Service Agreement**

A staff report dated January 15, 2014 was submitted.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council endorse the Service Level Agreement with Destination Halifax, effective on the date of execution and continuing in force until the first occurrence of March 31st thereafter, unless terminated earlier, with provision for**

**three (3) year consecutive renewals, and with the ability for HRM to terminate the agreement with nine (9) months' written notice.**

Deputy Mayor Fisher requested clarification around the renewal term. Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Analyst, Economic Policy & Development advised that the renewal period is for 36 months and would be renewed for a three year period. The agreement would renew automatically unless notice to terminate was given.

To provide better clarity around the renewal term, the Committee agreed to revise the last line of the motion to: *with provision for 36 month renewal unless otherwise terminated.*

The motion before the Committee now reads:

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council endorse the Service Level Agreement with Destination Halifax, effective on the date of execution and continuing in force until the first occurrence of March 31<sup>st</sup> thereafter, unless terminated earlier, with provision for 36 month renewal unless otherwise terminated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7.2 Information Report on Youth Engagement**

An information report dated January 7, 2014 was submitted.

As Councillor McCluskey was not in attendance, it was **MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Mason to defer Item 7.2 Information Report on Youth Engagement to the Committee's March 20, 2014 meeting. MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7.3 Committee's Status Sheet – Councillor Watts**

Councillor Nicoll advised that the Chief Administrative Office and the Clerk's Office are working to standardize the Standing Committee's Status Sheets; an update will be provided to members of Council.

Councillor Mason suggested that as per Community Council's practice, Standing Committee's Status Sheets be placed at the top of each agenda.

## **8. PRESENTATION REQUESTS:**

### **8.1 Halifax Higher Education Partnership**

Ms. Jennifer Church, Managing Director of Government Relations & External Affairs suggested that in light of recently approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Halifax Higher Education Partnership, the Committee may want to

request a presentation from Partnership to provide an update on the work they are doing around supporting economic growth in the community.

The Committee approved a presentation at the March, or subsequent meeting, by university presidents on the Halifax Higher Education Partnership.

## **9. MOTIONS:**

### **9.1 Councillor Watts**

“Request a staff report to respond to requests for HRM staff engagement with Imagine Bloomfield on re-investment parameters in the Bloomfield redevelopment as conceived in the Bloomfield Master Plan (specifically an appointment of a staff representative to work with Imagine Bloomfield to scope out reinvestment parameters) and the development of a report to Council outlining a potential re-investment strategy, anticipated outcomes and impacts on the property and HRM.”

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business to the March 20, 2014 meeting.

### **9.2 Councillor Mason**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a presentation by the manager responsible for HRM Parks regarding short and long term issues in HRM parks, such as off leash dog concerns, maintenance, and programming and planning for parks.**

Councillor Mason noted this request originates from a discussion at the Point Pleasant Parks Advisory Committee and he was looking to discuss with staff.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer advised that he would take the lead in coordinating appropriate staff to be in attendance at the next meeting to provide an overview and respond to questions.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **9.3 Councillor Mason**

“To request an update on HRM’s efforts to support volunteers in our communities and the impact of the removal of community developers from these communities, with the goal of understanding HRM’s current efforts, and how HRM can build capacity and better support volunteers in our communities.”

In response to a request from Councillor Mason for an update from staff, Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture clarified that Councillor Mason’s

motion was to receive an update on the roles of Community Developers and how they support volunteers. She advised that HRM has a division with different components; Volunteer Conference and Volunteer Awards, which is a formal process to support volunteers. This division also has Community Developers assigned to each HRM District to aid community associations and different volunteer groups to build capacity within their own communities. As well, Community Developers provide support for volunteer boards that work with HRM's Facility Lease Agreements and other smaller community organization volunteer groups. Ms. Schofield noted that another component is helping volunteers connect with various resources in the community.

Councillor Mason referenced the Neighbourhood Action Workshop hosted by Jim Diers and asked when the decision was made to remove Community Developers from community centres and what kind of contact do they currently have in those communities. Whether they are working with just those organizations, or actively engaged in communities with socio-economic challenges.

In response, Ms. Schofield did not know the specific year Community Developers were consolidated. However, these developers are all based at the Bloomfield Centre and with the pending sale, staff is reviewing whether to continue with consolidation or integrate them back into communities. Presently, the developers work with some community associations, as well as lead volunteers in the community. Developers are assigned to different districts in areas that either have socio-economic concerns or where there are potential capacity concerns; each having different roles based on the community's need.

Councillor Mason highlighted feedback he received from District 7 residents on their concern with the lack of access to services.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Watts, Ms. Schofield indicated that work plans are assigned and reviewed accordingly; recommending that if she had a specific project to contact Community & Recreation Services.

During the ensuing discussion, concern was reiterated with the lack of integration in the community and the need to understand the pressures in individual communities. Mr. Labrecque clarified that a number of services derive from Council's priority theme areas. The program that Community and Recreation Services is delivering is based on those priority areas and staffing is captured in the business plan accordingly.

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director of Community & Recreation Services spoke to the challenges of forward deployment of Community Developers and noted that staff will work on ensuring Community Developers have a community presence.

The discussion ensued with staff responding to questions around community engagement for the Centre Plan process.

**10. ADDED ITEMS:**

**10.1 Notice of Motion: Ivany Commission Report – Councillor Mason**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts to suspend the Rules of Procedure in order to deal with the Notice of Motion on the Ivany Commission Report at this time. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that:**

**Whereas a strong Nova Scotia economy benefits the citizens of HRM, and a strong HRM benefits the citizens of Nova Scotia and;**

**Whereas the *Now or Never - an Urgent Call to Action for All Nova Scotians'* report calls on municipal leaders to embrace new responsibilities for the development of the overall economy across the Province.**

**The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council request:**

- 1. a staff report that examines the role of HRM in the implementation of, and alignment with *Now or Never - an Urgent Call to Action for Nova Scotians'*, including giving consideration to possible revision and update of HRM's Economic Strategy and impacts and implications with respect to delivery by departments and agencies responsible for HRMs economic development, and to also identify any other related areas that may require further study and alignment;**
- 2. that the Mayor write a letter to the Premier, opposition leaders and UNSM President outlining HRM's readiness to work in partnership to develop the province-wide response to the report.**

Councillor Mason spoke on the Ivany Commission Report; providing background to the Committee around HRM's work on economic development and stating to the Province that HRM is willing to take the lead.

Councillor Watts suggested that consideration be given to inviting Ray Ivany, or another member of the Commission, to make a presentation to either the Committee or Council and respond to questions.

The Committee discussed the critical role HRM is likely to play in acting on the Ivany Commission Report's recommendations.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. IN CAMERA: NONE**

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE:** March 20, 2014

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant