

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

March 9, 2011

PRESENT: Councillors: Peter Lund, Chair
Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Lorelei Nicoll
Jennifer Watts
Dawn Sloane
Darren Fisher
Jackie Barkhouse

REGRETS: Councillor: Barry Dalrymple

STAFF: Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Richard MacLellan, Manager, Sustainable Environment
Management Office
Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2011 (*Deferred from March 3, 2011*)

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the February 3, 2011 minutes be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletions:

4.1.5 Solar City Update (*verbal update*)

4.1.6 Lake Banook Weed Growth (*verbal update*)

Additions:

5.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Proposed By-Law S-607, An Amendment to By-Law S-600, Respecting Solid Waste Resource Collection and Disposal – Diversion Opportunities

The Committee agreed to discuss Item 5.1 as the first order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Proposed By-Law S-607, An Amendment to By-Law S-600, Respecting Solid Waste Resource Collection and Disposal – Diversion Opportunities

An email extract from Councillor Watts dated March 9, 2011 was before the Committee for review.

Councillor Watts provided an overview of her March 9th email.

The Committee entered into discussion with staff providing clarification regarding the March 8, 2011 Council discussion respecting the proposed changes to By-Law S-600.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee direct staff to provide a report outlining the implications of the March 8, 2011 Regional Council motion respecting the direction of Council.

Further discussion ensued. The Committee indicated that the intent is for staff to look for opportunity in the March 8th Regional Council motion.

Staff clarified that the intent is not to rethink the Solid Waste strategy but how to move the strategy to the next stage through education and consultation.

The Committee requested staff bring back the plan including any possible budget implications. Mr. Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, confirmed that an outline of HRM's waste communication and education plan for By-law S-607 initiatives to increase diversion would be provided to the Committee for their next meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. REPORTS

4.1 STAFF REPORTS (*Deferred from March 3, 2011*)

4.1.1 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

A staff report dated January 13, 2011 was before the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the January 13th staff report, with staff responding to questions of clarification respecting HRM's Anti Idling Program.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Sloane as to whether external vehicles fall within HRM's Anti Idling Program, as well as HRM's ability to enforce those vehicles, Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, indicated that this would be a question for Legal Services. He further indicated that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is reviewing this issue and is trying to develop guidelines. The Committee requested that staff provide an update respecting the status of the UNSM's initiatives.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, advised that this matter will be going before the Transportation Standing Committee for review.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Accept the 2011 Progress Report, Attachment 1 of the staff report dated January 13, 2011;**
- 2. Direct staff to work with the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to create a recommendation to Regional Council for a 2020 Emissions Reduction Target for corporate operations;**

3. **Direct staff to complete a community greenhouse gas emissions inventory, which would lead to creating a recommendation to Regional Council for a 2020 Emissions Reduction Target for the community; and**
4. **Direct staff, following Regional Council approval of 2020 Targets, to develop Emissions Reduction Plans to achieve these targets and perform corporate and community consultation on the development of these plans.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.1.2 Invasive Species

A staff report dated January 12, 2011 was before the Committee.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that Item 4.1.2 – Invasive Species be deferred to the next meeting.**

MOTION to defer PUT AND PASSED.

4.1.3 Corporate Knights Sustainable Cities Rankings 2011

A staff report dated February 9, 2011 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee accept the February 9, 2011 staff report and forward a copy of the staff report to Regional Council for their information.

The Committee entered into a brief discussion.

Councillor Hum exited the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Without a vote on the motion, it was **MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that item 4.1.3 - Corporate Knights Sustainable Cities Rankings 2011 be deferred to the next meeting.**

MOTION to defer PUT AND PASSED.

4.1.4 Corporate Sustainability Filter

A staff report dated February 2, 2011 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to the

Administrative Committee to adopt Environmental Implication as a standing requirement in Council and Committee Reports. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.1.5 Solar City Update (*verbal update*)

Deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

4.1.6 Lake Banook Weed Growth (*verbal update*)

Deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

5. ADDED ITEMS

5.1 Councillor Watts – Discussion re: Proposed By-Law S-607, An Amendment to By-Law S-600, Respecting Solid Waste Resource Collection and Disposal – Diversion Opportunities

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting, see page 3.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 7, 2011 (*change in meeting location – Media Room*)

7. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE