

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

July 17, 2013

PRESENT:

Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair
Mr. Eric Burchill
Mr. Geoff Le Boutillier
Ms. Joanne Macrae
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Mr. Bill Book

REGRETS:

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Mr. Peter Moorhouse

STAFF:

Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning and Infrastructure
Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure
Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation
Planning
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 3, 2013

Councillor Watts requested that the following sentence be added to the final paragraph of item 4.1, as follows: “The Committee added that the total allowable residential units in business parks should be established with the developer and that this cap cannot later be changed.” **MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Mr. Book that the minutes of July 3, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Chair requested two additions and suggested that both items be dealt with prior to item 4.1. The Committee agreed.

7.1 Letter from Mr. Ross Soward, Community Planner, Planning & Design Centre

7.2 Mr. Le Boutillier’s role at the Ecology Action Centre

MOVED by Mr. Book, seconded by Mr. Burchill that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Letter from Mr. Ross Soward, Community Planner, Planning & Design Centre, Dalhousie University

The Chair informed the Committee that she had been sent the letter from Mr. Soward by email, dated July 16, 2013, and received July 17, 2013. She noted that she had not had time to review the letter but wished to mention receipt of it. Councillor Watts raised a question of how groups such as the Planning & Design Centre can be made aware of timelines in terms of participating effectively, especially if groups are proposing substantive changes or alternative proposals. Mr. French responded that, following the CDAC process, the CPED committee will receive the staff report and may accept it, reject it, or accept it with changes. CPED, or Regional Council, may also request a supplementary report. Once the report is finalized and made available publicly, a public hearing will be advertised and there cannot be additional changes at that point. The hearing will be restricted to the material in the report. The Chair requested that staff provide CDAC members with a brief written explanation of the process as outlined by Mr. French.

7.2 Mr. Le Boutillier's role at the Ecology Action Centre

The Chair noted that Mr. Le Boutillier was one of three authors of a recent article in the Chronicle-Herald and that the article identified him as a CDAC member. Mr. Le Boutillier responded that the newspaper editor had identified his CDAC affiliation, and that he hoped it was clear he was not speaking on behalf of CDAC in the article. He added that he had been offered a contract with the Ecology Action Centre and that this July 17, 2013 CDAC meeting was his first opportunity to inform Committee members and to declare any conflict of interest should one arise.

The Committee then returned to the regular order of business.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

4.1 Revised Performance Measures

Mr. French distributed a draft table, dated July 17, 2013, of staff objectives, measurement/indicators, sources and the frequency of the measurement (annually, every two years, every five years). He suggested that Committee members review the draft and discuss it at the next CDAC meeting on July 31, 2013. The Chair requested that the table be sent to those Committee members who were absent. She also suggested that the draft, labelled as such, be placed on the HRM website.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence

This item was dealt with under item 7.1, see page 3.

5.2 Petitions -- None

5.3 Presentations -- None

6. REPORTS

6.1 Continued Review of Community Feedback Tables

Committee members stated they wished to acknowledge the diligent research and high quality of many of the public written submissions on the RP+ 5 Review.

The Committee then continued its review of the Tables, and agreed to begin with Chapter 4: Transportation, so that Mr. McCusker could speak first. Mr. McCusker and Mr. French explained the classification system for existing streets in terms of road rehabilitation, emergency vehicles, snow-clearing and other benefits and restrictions. Committee members expressed concern that residents may not understand how their street classification, or any change in classification, may affect them. Members also

requested that the final draft clarify that any trails built by developers must be built to HRM standards and that there will be no further discussions on a third harbour bridge for the duration of the RP+5 Plan. Mr. McCusker noted that it was the intent of staff to include additional detail on Active Transportation and on transit in the final draft of Chapter 4.

The Committee then returned to the remaining chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction – No additional comments.

Chapter 2: Energy, Environment and Climate Change – Mr. French indicated the staff response to the Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organizations. He also mentioned provincial updates on wetland protection and the request from Halifax Water to establish a 30.5 riparian buffer on public land in protected water supply zones.

Chapter 3: Settlement and Housing – Mr. French explained why the term “forestry” will be removed from policy S-12. He also clarified that HRM is not allowing development to proceed with cisterns, as there is no current provincial or municipal legislation regulating cistern installation or inspection.

Chapter 5: Economy and Finance – Mr. French agreed with CDAC members that policy and regulatory differences for HRM-owned business parks and privately owned business parks will be clearly set out.

Chapter 6: Regional Centre – Ms. Fraser informed the Committee that staff had prepared an extensive FAQ that clarifies terms and definitions used throughout the RP+5 process and had placed this FAQ on the HRM website. She added that there was a high level of public and stakeholder interest in current Regional Center research and information on growth and new projects. The Chair requested that the FAQ section referred to be placed on the July 31, 2013 agenda so that the Committee could provide feedback to staff.

The Committee then returned to a discussion of the potential of residential development within commercial districts or business parks with members expressing concern about the interpretation of policy.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Book that the Community Design Advisory Committee recommend that staff consider, for future five-year plans, that there be a clear cap/build-out on the total number of residential units allowed within any commercial/business park development. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chapter 7: Cultural and Heritage Resources – Mr. French explained that how communities are designated on maps will be comprehensively examined during the forthcoming Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan.

The Committee agreed that it would return to Chapter 7 at its July 31, 2013 meeting.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Letter from Mr. Ross Soward, Community Planner, Planning & Design Centre, Dalhousie University

This item was dealt with previously, see page 3.

7.2 Mr. Le Boutillier's role at the Ecology Action Centre

This item was dealt with previously, see page 4.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 31, 2013

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support