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MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Design Advisory Committee
FROM: Jacob Ritchie, Urban Design Manager
DATE: 2015-05-21
SUBJECT: **Preparatory Material for 2015-05-27 CDAC Meeting**

To the Committee,

Stakeholder engagement has progressed through the spring and has informed the further development of the Workplan for the Centre Plan project. This memorandum provides the background to support the discussion at the CDAC meeting planned for May 27th, 2015.

1. Engagement Update

Website

Working with HRM Communications staff the project team has updated the landing page for the Centre Plan, providing an archive location for work done in previous iterations and providing a new landing page for inquiries. The page can be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/planhrm/centreplan.php>.

This page is a static landing page, but allows the Communications staff to move forward with the creation of the Shape Your City portal where staff can begin to engage the wider community and allow two way communications on the project.

Stakeholders

Carrying forward from the April meeting and the discussion of Stakeholder engagement the project team has continued working through the Engage & Define step of the Engagement Strategy, taking opportunities to meet with a wide variety of stakeholders to introduce the project and understand what is going on around the Regional Centre. This work has informed our workplan and has been a successful introduction to community groups, government agencies, other interest groups, and our own internal Functional and Priorities Plans.

Significantly, a companion planning project being advanced currently by Parks & Recreation (the Green Network Plan) has publically launched and begun its own engagement phase. A "Fact Sheet" for the project is attached for review, and we encourage committee members to review the Shape Your City portal for the project here: <http://shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/halifax-green-network>.

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We expect that the review of this project's materials will lead to a fruitful discussion with respect to presenting material for the Centre Plan project.

Planning Meeting / Workshop

Staff are preparing for the first public event in June to share broadly the definitions developed in Step 1 of the process and begin sharing some of the knowledge we are gaining through our technical studies.

Report

The report on Step 1 of the Engagement Strategy will be tabled at the June CDAC meeting. The report will provide measures of success as detailed in the strategy and will lead to a better refined Step 2.

2. Workplan Update

As this project has an established history within HRM the creation of the workplan has not been a task done from scratch, but rather it has evolved from earlier iterations through application and assessment of our most recent reorganization, the current structure of the Urban Design team, and most importantly the information we are obtaining through our engagement efforts.

The attached Topline Work Breakdown Structure provides the components of the workplan that will be discussed at the meeting. Each of these components has multiple sub-projects, the detailing of these projects and how they are being resourced will be discussed with the intention of sharing with the committee how particular components will be resourced, notably components with significant public engagement components.

3. Status of Functional Plans

One of the significant components of the *understanding of ourselves* is the current status of Functional & Priorities Plans within the municipality. Staff will provide for CDAC a summary of the current status of all Functional and Priorities Plans that have been enabled by Regional Planning. This update will include the projects that have been referenced at earlier stages as well as additional related plans that help form the established understanding of the Regional Centre area.

4. Status of Technical Studies

Local Wastewater Capacity Study

HRM has established a partnership with Halifax Water on this study. The review committee has selected a preferred proponent. Halifax Water procurement is nearing completion of award and – with that complete -- the consultant will be in Phase 1 of the project. Preliminary results from this study will be available in late summer 2015, with final analysis completed before the end of the calendar year.

Density Bonusing Study

A multidisciplinary team from TEAL Architects, Cantwell & Company, Toderian Urban Works, and Coriolis Consulting have been awarded this investigation into the capacity for, and best practice for implementation of, Density Bonusing throughout the Regional Centre. This project will be complete with policy and process recommendations in August 2015.

Regional Centre Physical Structure & Districts

Staff has formalized a project with Mikiko Terashima, assistant professor at the School of Planning at Dalhousie University, to partner in developing small-area planning and development indicators to enhance evidence-based planning within the Regional Centre. This project will work with constructed physical areas within the Regional Centre and will calculate the levels of homogeneity of various demographic characteristics within areas as a way to test the validity of the boundaries. Additionally, the project will compile, process, and spatially organize data to produce an initial set of indicators organized by the physical areas within the Regional Centre created in the first stage of the project. This project will be complete in August 2015

5. Additional Discussion

Staff would welcome input from CDAC members with respect to the pulse of the public and their respective communities in regards to planning processes current being undertaken by staff.