

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2012

PRESENT: Terry Smith-Lamothe, Chair
Anne Sinclair
Sue Sirrs
Cesar Saleh
Suzanne Saul
Kevin Conley
Jeff Pinhey
Mary Black
William Hyde

REGRETS: Roy McBride
Nick Pryce
Ramzi Kawar

STAFF: Richard Harvey, Senior Planner
Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Planning and Infrastructure
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Jane Crosby, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall

The Chair introduced Jane Crosby as a new legislative support clerk and extended congratulations on behalf of the Committee to Andy Fillmore with regards to his new position, and thanked him for working with the Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Saleh, seconded by Ms. Black that the minutes of March 8, 2012 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

8.1 Invitation to a consultation workshop on HRM's Urban Forest at Dalhousie University.

8.2 Request by Phil Pacey of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to present to the Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Sirrs, seconded by Mr. Saleh that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1 Invitation to a consultation workshop on HRM's Urban Forest at Dalhousie University.

Correspondence dated June 6, 2012 from Peter Duinker, PHD, Professor and Director, Dalhousie University inviting representation from the committee to attend a consultation workshop on HRM's urban forest being held on June 28, 2012 was distributed.

The Chair addressed item 8.1 and asked if Mr. Kevin Conley and Ms. Sue Sirrs would be able to attend this workshop on behalf of the Design Review Committee. Both Mr. Conley and Ms. Sirrs hope to attend this workshop on June 28, 2012.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

6. CORRESPONDENCE/PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS

6.1 Presentation by Waterfront Development Corporation – Development of Cunard Block lands (immediately to the south of Bishops Landing)

A letter dated June 5, 2012 from Mr. Eric Burchill, Director of Planning and Development, Waterfront Development Corporation with attachments was before the Committee.

The Chair welcomed the Waterfront Development Corporation Limited (WDCL) to the meeting.

Mr. Colin MacLean introduced himself as President of the WDCL. Mr. MacLean introduced members of the project team in attendance, and thanked Mr. Richard Harvey for HRM's assistance with the project plan. Mr. MacLean presented a brief introduction of the proposed development and turned the presentation over to Mr. Eric Burchill, Director of Planning and Development for the WDCL.

Mr. Burchill, began by presenting a brief project timeline starting with the project initiation and public consultation approximately one (1) year ago, as well as a brief history of the progression of the proposed development from that time. Key information in the presentation included:

- An overview of the proposed site, the Cunard Block, including its current use as a parking lot, its surroundings, its size, the amount of Lower Water Street frontage, elevation changes within the site, and the area's potential.
- The proposed development strives to work with the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) allowing the WDCL to approach the development community with a plan that is emblematic as a strong design for the site.
- The conceptual development phase including the technical studies and assessments that were pursued, and massing and configuration options that were brought to public consultation which allowed WDCL to produce the site's design development brief.
- The sites view planes, sub grade components, and the potential for a 2 to 3 level parking garage that would accommodate residents and the general public.
- The Primary Design Objectives of the project: Public Open Space Design concept.
- The site plan showing a 17 storey tower, designed to minimize shadow, a lower tower and a stand-alone structure. The designated uses of the structures on the ground floor: commercial and live/work. It was also noted that 39% of the site would remain public open space.
- The turn circle was noted to also function as an event plaza and as an open space connection to the waterfront and the boardwalk. The site has the potential to meet WDCL's objective of four season use.
- The site's views were presented from various surrounding perspectives.

- A presentation of project data that includes an overview of the number and size of the residential units, the amount of commercial space and the potential number of parking spots.
- The next steps in the project: Issuing an RFP Tender, evaluating proposals and selecting a preferred partner.

Mr. Burchill indicated that the WDCL was looking for feedback from the Committee and took questions from Committee members.

The Chair thanked the WDCL for their presentation.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 Report of Chair – Appeal of Design Review Committee Decision to Halifax Regional Council - Case 17534, Substantive Site Plan Approval - 1592 Barrington Street (Oral)

An extract of the minutes of the May 15, 2012 Halifax Regional Council meeting regarding this matter was before the Committee.

The Chair advised that Halifax Regional Council had denied the appeal of the Design Review Committee decision on Case 17534, Substantive Site Plan Approval – 1592 Barrington Street and upheld the decision of the Design Review Committee. A brief discussion was held with no further action being taken.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Invitation to a consultation workshop on HRM's Urban Forest at Dalhousie University.

This item was addressed previously in the meeting, please refer to page 3.

8.2 Request by Phil Pacey of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia to present to the Committee.

Correspondence dated June, 2012 from Mr. Phil Pacey requesting he be permitted to present to the Committee, when appropriate, on Case 17000 and the Regional Centre Plan was before the Committee.

A discussion was held on whether or not the Committee would receive these presentations. **It was concluded that the Committee would not receive a presentation on the Regional Centre Plan as it will not be a matter for consideration by the Committee and at this time the Committee has no information which would suggest that Case 17000 will be coming to the Committee or when that might be.**

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 12, 2012

Please note that due to the closure of Halifax Hall resulting from the work to the exterior of City Hall, meetings of the Design Review Committee will be temporarily relocated to the 3rd Floor of Duke Tower, Meeting Room 1 beginning on July 12, 2012 for at least the remainder of 2012.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Jane Crosby
Legislative Support