

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE MINUTES

April 19, 2007

PRESENT:

Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice- Chair
Ms. Catherine Carmody
Mr. Stephen Terauds
Mr. Frank Palermo
Mr. Kendall Taylor
Mr. David Garrett
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Councillor Smith
Mr. William Hyde
Councillor Sloane
Councillor Wile

REGRETS:

Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Kevin Riles
Ms. Adriane abbott
Ms. Margot Young
Mr. Bernie Smith
Ms. Linda Garber

STAFF:

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Capital District
Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER 3

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES- None 3

3. FORUM #3 REVIEW 3

4. NEXT MEETING DATE 5

5. ADJOURNMENT 5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 with Mr. Paul MacKinnon in the Chair.

The team of consultants from the Office for Urbanism consisting of Ms. Jennifer Keesmaat, Mr. Harold Madi and Mr. Vincent Tong joined the meeting in person as they were in town for Forum #3.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the March 30th, 2007 meeting will go for approval at the May 2, 2007 meeting.

3. FORUM #3 REVIEW

Ms. Jennifer Keesmaat, Partner, Office for Urbanism provided an overview of the results from forum #3. The following was noted:

- Public participation was very broad,
- Successful strategies have been created to increase participation in Dartmouth,
- Communication strategies have helped in increasing participation,
- There has been a move from skepticism to trust throughout this forum,
- People are interested in seeing results,
- The forums are helping the community feel a sense of ownership of the plan.

Ms. Keesmaat advised of the complexity of the project, and informed the committee about an information session called HRM By Design 101 created as an introduction course to engage interested citizens who are new to the process. This information session was implemented before Forum #3 began, and was well attended.

Ms. Keesmaat advised of the need for an in-depth media strategy to ensure the media is engaged at critical stages of the process.

Following a discussion regarding heritage, Ms. Keesmaat advised that a heritage audit

Ms. Keesmaat advised that the Office for Urbanism is trying to achieve a implementable strategy. She noted that consensus is an important and attainable goal during the forums, but a consensus approach is not an achievable approach regarding the plan and its entirety.

Mr. Frank Palermo noted that a heritage approach is necessary in some areas, but rebuilding modern buildings would be more appropriate in other areas.

Councillor Sloane advised that Schmitzville, Creghton and Barrington Street are the main heritage areas in HRM. She further advised that affordable housing is an issue and needs more attention throughout this process. She suggested using abandoned buildings as development sites for affordable housing. She concluded by suggesting consulting the Dangerous and Unsightly Committee for advice.

Mr. William Hyde expressed confusion regarding the need to protect heritage properties throughout this process. He suggested that the Task Force should concentrate more on the design of the heritage properties and less on the protection of these properties.

Mr. Harold Madi, Partner, Office for Urbanism responded to Mr. Hyde's confusion by explaining the importance of building a relationship with the heritage community and its necessity in the success of the plan. He continued by advising that heritage has a variety of different values and there are a variety of different ways urban design will approach development.

Mr. Garrett suggested holding a public information session in May to gauge public opinion surrounding heritage.

Mr. Terauds advised of the importance of having structures that represent today's culture as future heritage properties.

Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District advised that caution must be exercised in trying to create a resolution at this point as it may be premature.

Mr. Garrett expressed concern regarding the resolution of heritage issues. He

frameworks will be carried out in real life. He noted the need for a decrease in dialogue and an increase in demonstration at the next forum.

Mr. Palermo advised of the need for visual representations of the suggested frameworks. He further advised that representations will increase discussion in a "moving forward" direction.

Councillor Sloane applauded the team for their efforts, and advised of the positive response she has been receiving from residents.

Mr. Garrett advised of the need to explore the physical and social attitudes of existing neighbourhoods. He noted the opportunity sites are clean slates but expressed concern that approach may not be accepted. He concluded by expressing concern with the media and communications coverage on this issue. He questioned if people outside the general interest of the plan will be properly informed.

Mr. Madi responded by acknowledging the need for visual representation, but advised of the level of caution needed regarding possible confusion of what expectations may come out of demonstrations.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Urban Design Task Force will be May 2, 2007 at 12:00.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Chrissy White
Legislative Assistant