

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE
MINUTES
October 3, 2007

- PRESENT: Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Ms. Cathy Carmody
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Ms. Linda Garber
Mr. David Garrett
Mr. Kevin Riles
Mr. Steven Terauds
Mr. Bernie Smith
Ms. Margot Young
Mr. Kendall Taylor
Mr. Frank Palermo
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Mary Wile
- REGRETS: Ms. Dale Godsoe
Mr. Bill Hyde
Councillor Jim Smith
- STAFF: Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Capital District
Mr. Steve Higgins, Project Implementation Coordinator, Capital District
Ms. Chrystiane Mallaley, Communications Officer, Capital District
Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District
Mr. Harold Madi, Office for Urbanism
Ms. Jennifer Keesmatt, Office for Urbanism
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 5, 2007

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Mr. Terauds, that the minutes of September 5, 2007 be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Harold Madi advised the Committee of his change of employment. Mr. Madi can be reached by email hmadi@planpark.ca

MOVED by Ms. Garber, seconded by Mr. Garrett, that the Order of Business be approved. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - Study Process and Consultant Team

Correspondence was distributed by Ms. Mallaley and will be discussed at the next meeting.

6.2 Presentations

6.2.1 Capital District Research - Aubrey Fricker

Mr. Fricker provided a presentation to the Committee on Capital District Research.

After the presentation Mr. Madi added that research is essential in order to balance between present and future development.

6.2.2 Nova Scotia Business Inc.

Steven Lund provided a presentation from Nova Scotia Business Incorporated updating the Committee of their plans. He stated he supports the initiatives of HRM by Design.

Mr. MacKinnon questioned how companies moving into an area adapt their building forms to fit the style of the city. Mr. Lund replied most companies want to respect the heritage and culture of the area. Companies want to build office space in areas that are convenient to employees. Companies are concerned with the quality of life of its staff. Many employees would like the opportunity to work and live in the downtown.

Mr. Palermo added that many companies have the initiative and creativity to design and develop great work places. Mr. Lund suggested that HRM have a signature building in the area as a showcase for the City. He added that HRM should have a financial services centre and NSBI is currently working on this initiative.

Mr. Lund stated that NSBI and HRM are now in a 3-6 month window of opportunity, so development needs to be planned and some solutions put in place. Mr. Garrett suggested that a meeting take place to discuss options for office buildings. Mr. Madi added that building height may be an issue of concern for new companies moving in to the core.

6.2.3 Manager of Transportation Planning - David McCusker

Mr. McCusker gave a presentation regarding Transportation Planning in HRM.

Following the presentation some concerns were raised:

Mr. Palermo was concerned that Public Transit is not working on a more ambitious plan. One corridor is not sufficient. Mr. McCusker agreed with the comments and added that the transportation plan will require some re-envisioning as development takes place.

The Committee and Mr. McCusker agreed that more growth on the Peninsula would be beneficial to the Transit Plan. Growth in the suburbs adds to the strain on the system.

With the envisioning of the Atlantic Gateway, Mr. McCusker added that truck traffic would increase in the downtown core. This is an ongoing issue, discussions must take place with CN for increased rail service if the Atlantic Gateway plan moves forward. Mr. Smith suggested that the terminal in the South End be moved in order to facilitate growth in the downtown core.

Mr. French issued projections of growth throughout HRM according to the Regional Plan. The projections are 25% growth in the city centre, 50% increase in urban, and a 25% increase in rural.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Workplan/Critical Path Update - Steven Higgins

Mr. Higgins distributed the new plan. The next meeting of the Urban Design Task Force is scheduled for October 17th, with additional meetings on November 7th and November 21st.

Mr. Higgins advised that some members of the Urban Design Task Force will attend some meetings of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

7.2 Communications Update - Chrystiane Mallaley

Ms. Mallaley discussed the package that was distributed for discussion at the October 17th meeting.

The Forum 4b plan will be introduced to the public on the evening November 28th (tentative) at the WTCC.

7.3 UDTF Sub Committee Check In - Sustainability, Social, Downtown, etc.

Mr. Garrett advised that it was suggested by Brad Smith that the Greater Halifax Partnership make a presentation to the UDTF on economic sustainability. Although Mr. Garrett agrees of the importance of economic, social and environmental sustainability, he suggested the sub committee's mandate focus mainly on the environmental sustainability.

8. ADDED ITEMS

Mr. Andy Fillmore informed the Committee that Ms. Mallaley has accepted a new position in New Brunswick. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Fillmore, wished her well and thanked her for her contribution to the Urban Design Task Force.

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th at 4:00 pm.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant