

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2004

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Steve Streach
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Dawn Sloane (2:45 p.m.)
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher (3:00 p.m.)
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS:

Councillors: Jerry Blumenthal
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

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

MOVED by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. HOUSING RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

- An information report, prepared for Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning and Development Services, dated January 27, 2004, on the above noted, was before Council.
- A copy of the powerpoint presentation was circulated to Council.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning and Development Services, introduced the item advising the presentation would be addressing housing research and initiatives that HRM has been working on over the past year. He advised the presentation would define what the municipal role is in housing issues in HRM, noting staff has defined the role of HRM within the context of Nova Scotia legislation. He advised the interest of HRM in housing is in the areas of public health and safety.

5. HOMELESSNESS IN HRM - A PORTRAIT OF STREETS AND SHELTERS

- A report prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, dated January 28, 2004, on the above noted, was before Council.
- A copy of the powerpoint presentation was circulated to Council.
- Reports entitled "Literature Review of Current Housing and Homelessness Research in the Halifax Regional Municipality", "Everyone Has a Right to a Home", "Public Perception of Homelessness and Housing Affordability in the Halifax Regional Municipality" and "Homelessness in HRM" were before Council.

Ms. Barb Nehiley, Special Projects Advisor, Planning and Development Services, and Ms. Kasia Tota, Housing Research Coordinator, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation, addressed Council outlining the following issues:

- Causes of Homelessness

- Indicators of Risk
- Objective
- Economic Indicator of Risk
- Who is at Risk in HRM
- How does HRM compare to other parts of Canada
- Survey locations, limitations, strengths and results
- Causes, incidences and lengths of homelessness

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that Regional Council:

- 1. Accept the Homelessness in HRM - Portrait of Streets and Shelters report;**
- 2. Encourage the Provincial and Federal government to support the development of a shelter of “last resort” for individuals currently not served by the shelter system by virtue of their mental illness, addiction and related problems;**
- 3. Encourage and support the Provincial government in its implementation of the Federal-Provincial Affordable Housing Program and direct staff to explore appropriate partnerships;**
- 4. Encourage the Federal government to develop a National Housing Strategy.**
- 5. Encourage HRM to seek to attain regulations/rules similar to those under the former Boards of Health to allow for the closure of buildings which are deemed to be substandard.**
- 6. Continue to identify efficiencies and opportunities within existing activity areas to support the development and maintenance of affordable housing stock in the region.**

In response to Councillor Cunningham regarding whether HRM is doing anything with regards to providing emergency shelters, Ms. Nehiley advised that unless an emergency is declared, HRM does not have the authority to open shelters. Ms. Nehiley advised she would follow up on this and come back to Council with information on whether HRM has the ability to respond to specific instances such as cold weather conditions.

Councillor Cooper said he would like to see further evaluation of the risks outlined in the report particularly combinations of risks that seem to influence the number of homeless at different times.

Councillor Warshick requested staff forward the information to the Provincial MLA's and the local MP's.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. CONCRETE POURING IN WINTER CONDITIONS

- A copy of the powerpoint presentation, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Ed Thornhill, Manager, Permits and Inspections, introduced Dr. Wilbert Langley, who provided an overview of the science behind curing and finishing of concrete outlining:

- Cold weather definition;
- Effects of cold weather on concrete;
- Concrete hardening process;
- Good cold weather practices;
- What can be done with the concrete and how practical are these ideas;
- General requirements;
- Heating concrete;
- When can concrete be finished;
- Concrete set times;
- Can concrete be heated effectively on site;
- Objectives of cold weather concreting;
- Principles of winter concreting;
- Advice for contractors.

Mayor Kelly thanked Dr. Langley for his presentation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Acting Municipal Clerk