

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE May 9, 2006

MINUTES

- PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Russell Walker
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Debbie Hum
Stephen D. Adams
Robert P. Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade
- REGRETS: Mayor Peter Kelly
Councillors: Steve Streach
Dawn Sloane
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Len Goucher
- STAFF: Ms. Gerri Kaiser, A/Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	3
3.	TEMPORARY SIGN BY-LAW	3
4.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. TEMPORARY SIGN BY-LAW (deferred April 25, 2006)

This matter had been deferred from a meeting of April 25, 2006, during which time the following motion had been put:

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle By-law Number S-800 with an amendment that the Sackville Drive Secondary Plan area sign measures apply to the entire Sackville Plan area.

Mr. Kurt Pyle, Planner, Planning and Development Services and Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development Services responded to questions.

The following comments by Council were put forward:

- C Would like to see uniformity throughout the Municipality in regard to billboard signage, including permit fees
- C Staff was requested to address third party signage in the bylaw
- C Staff was requested to check into what is assessed in regard to the billboard and if the land under the billboard assessed.

At 11:19 a.m. Councillor Murphy entered the meeting.

- C It was noted that there are a large number of apartment buildings along Parkland Drive, and in this location sandwich board signs advertising vacancies would be preferable over mobile signs.

Mr. Kurt Pyle, addressed Council to clarify the following points:

- C The proposed temporary sign provisions could allow up to 115 mobile signs on Chain Lake Drive, however, it was unlikely this would happen.
- C The proposed bylaw is not a Land Use Bylaw and, therefore, there is no grandfathering provision; signs would be licensed yearly and if, in future, Council determines the bylaw permits too many signs, Council can change the requirement.
- C The proposed bylaw does provide consistency throughout the Municipality, i.e. the

bylaw applies to all lands within HRM, both public and private lands, with the exception of Provincial and Federal land.

- C Previously, Council had given staff direction to ensure individual communities still had the opportunity to have unique characteristics to their area. From staff's point of view the proposed bylaw will provide a fair and consistent administration of the bylaw, while allowing communities to have their individual characteristics.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. Councillors Fougere and Younger entered the meeting.

Mr. Paul Dunphy addressed Council and noted the following:

- C With regard to uniformity, the primary goal of staff was to ensure uniformity on administrative matters, fees, and process.
- C The sign industry has said that there should be consistency throughout the region in regard to banning of mobile signs (either permit them everywhere or not at all); industry preference is to permit mobile signs throughout the Municipality.
- C Council previously stated that the existing standards of banning mobile signs in certain communities be maintained.
- C A couple of Councillors have indicated they want to further amend the bylaw in their community to introduce a ban on mobile signs and staff have advised that the same principle applies.
- C Council made a motion that the difference from community to community on mobile signs is something they accept and adopted and would not undermine while going through this process.

Councillor McInroy advised that he supported Councillor Harvey's amendment and was prepared to propose a similar amendment for the Cole Harbour plan area.

In response to a question by Councillor Fougere, Mr. Pyle noted that she was correct in that Council agreed to allow for inflatable signs on roof tops. He added that staff will ensure the bylaw is corrected to reflect this.

Additional comments by Council were put forward as follows:

- C Concern was expressed about additional areas of restriction and the difficulty in trying to administer and enforce the bylaw in these areas.
- C It was noted that Wyse Road was left off the map of the Capital District.

At 11:45 a.m. Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting.

Councillor Harvey advised that he initially put the motion on the floor to accept the bylaw in principle, in order that he could make an amendment to the bylaw. He indicated that it was not his intention to incorporate the amendment into the main motion. With regard to his amendment, he noted that it pertains to the more restrictive measures in the Sackville Drive Secondary Planning Strategy and that he wanted to extend this to the Sackville MPS areas. He added that he received a letter from the Sackville Drive Business Association supporting the more restrictive temporary sign measures.

On the advice of the Municipal Solicitor, the Chair suggested that the motion on the floor be split in order that Councillor Harvey's amendment could be dealt with separately.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor McInroy that the draft By-law Number S-800 be amended to have the Sackville Drive Secondary Plan area sign measures apply to the entire Sackville Plan area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Councillor Karsten that the Cole Harbour Plan area be incorporated into Section 6.2(g) (ii) of the draft Bylaw Number S-800 such that the provisions be similar to those that are proposed to be in place for Sackville, Bedford, Eastern Passage and Cow Bay.

Councillor McInroy advised that he was proposing this motion with the understanding that the sign industry would be able to continue with the planter box style signage in the long term.

In response to a request by the Chair for clarification on the direction on Planter Boxes, Mr. Dunphy advised that staff avoided making a recommendation on Planter Boxes because it is a question of values and that is something Council should determine. However, from staff perspective, the simplest solution would be Option 1. Mr. Dunphy advised that, essentially, Option 1 says it does not matter if it is a permanent or temporary planter box because they are all subject to the same setback requirements. He indicated that, as a result, it would eliminate the need for any future discussion on distinguishing between the two types of planter boxes.

In reference to Councillor McInroy's motion, Councillor Hendsbee noted that with regard to Main Street and the #7 Highway, part of the street is in Cole Harbour Plan area and the other part in the East Preston, North Preston, Lake Major Cherrybrook Planning zone. He suggested that Main Street, from the Salmon River inbound, be included in the Cole Harbour Plan area.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Snow that Regional Council endorse Option 1 in regard to Planter Box Signs, as outlined in the Supplementary Staff Report dated April 10, 2006. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Snow that Halifax Regional Council approve in principle Bylaw S-800 and direct staff to proceed with the introduction of the bylaw for final approval. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk