

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

---

### HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

February 27, 2007

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck  
Steve Stretch  
Krista Snow  
Gary Martin  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Dawn Sloane  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Bob Harvey  
Gary Meade  
Reg Rankin  
Steve Adams

REGRETS:

Councillor Shelia Fougere

STAFF:

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Chrissy White, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER ..... 3
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ..... 3
- 3. EASTERN PASSAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY- EXPANSION  
AND UPGRADE ..... 3
- 4. SOLID WASTE/ RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM- DIVERSION  
OPPORTUNITIES ..... 5
- 5. HRM BY DESIGN: URBAN DESIGN VISION AND PRINCIPLES ..... 7
- 6. ADJOURNMENT ..... 11

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councillor Johns advised that he would like it noted for the record that he does not support clear bags.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor John's, that the minutes of February 13, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. SOLID WASTE/ RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM- DIVERSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- This item was discussed at the February 13, 2007 Committee of the Whole.
- A staff report dated February 1, 2007 was before Council.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.

Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, provided a brief overview of the staff report, noting the following:

- 15-20% of HRM residents are rarely or not recycling or composting,
- HRM is no longer a leader in Solid Waste Diversion in the residential sector,
- After eight years of effort, communications strategies have not yet engaged everyone,
- An education campaign targeting students is being examined for November after the students return to school.

The following motion from the February 13, 2007 meeting was now before Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council authorize staff to:**

- 1. Initiate the process to amend the By-Law S-600, setting a limit of six (6) bags/containers for residential bi-weekly collection, effective August 20, 2007;**
- 2. Proceed with an amendment to By-Law S-600 to prohibit the mixing of**

- source separated organics and recyclables with refuse at ICI properties;  
and
3. **Proceed with amendment to By-Law S-600 to require signage on commercial organics and recycling bins.**

Members of Council provided comments on the above motion, noting:

- Youth education is a very important component for solid waste issues, and November 2007 would be an appropriate time to launch a campaign,
- This motion supports Council's fiscal responsibility to save Tax Payer's dollars,
- Concern was expressed regarding the low number of garbage bags recommended by staff per household,
- One large household good is permitted weekly during garbage collection,
- A Task Force, created by the Department of Environment and Labour, has been developed to address the issue of non-environmentally friendly food packaging,
- Public consultation is a policy of the Regional Plan, but not an attachment to the By-Law,
- The average HRM household collects 3.5 bags of refuse bi-weekly.

Councillor Wile entered the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

After a brief discussion ensued surrounding clear garbage bags, Councillor Snow presented the following motion:

**MOVED by Councillor Snow, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council approve a Pilot Project of three clear bags and three green bags.**

Members of Council expressed concern with a Pilot Project, noting the following:

- The ability to monitor personal refuse through clear bags,
- Switching to clear bags should be carried out incrementally,
- The logistics of the Pilot Project will not work,
- There are many apartments and condominiums in HRM that are not compliant.

**MOTION DEFEATED.**

At this point, discussion continued on the original motion.

In response to questions from Regional Council, Mr. Bauld advised:

- In 1996, Council set a minimum diversion rate of 60% that has never been attained.
- By-Law S-600 states that a single family home has a bi-weekly limit of 10 bags of refuse,
- Staff is not recommending a change for 4-6 unit dwellings
- HRM monitors multi-unit buildings up to six units,
- By Law S-600 states that the bag size must be no larger then 25m x 1m, or the size of a garbage can,
- HRM administers garbage collection to registered condominium properties across the Region,
- Condominium properties are monitored regularly by a contractor,
- Education Officers provide support when contractors find non-compliance,
- HRM works closely with The Condominium Association where they have three contracts that describe the service level,
- HRM does not service multi-unit apartment buildings consisting of more then six units,
- Issue Paper 1 A identifies that if the six bag limit is approved, evaluation will be conducted after an 18 month period and recommendations will be brought back to Council,
- Mr. Bauld is the administrator of the By-Law and he is unaware of any HRM facilities that are non-compliant,
- No penalty will be given to residents who choose to use clear bags,
- Pet waste is to be double bagged or disposed in a refuse bag,
- There is no disposal limit on the number of bags of recyclables.

The question was now asked on the original motion:

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council authorize staff to:**

- 1. Initiate the process to amend the By-Law S-600, setting a limit of six (6) bags/containers for residential bi-weekly collection, effective August 20, 2007;**
- 2. Proceed with an amendment to By-Law S-600 to prohibit the mixing of source separated organics and recyclables with refuse at ICI properties; and**
- 3. Proceed with amendment to By-Law S-600 to require signage on commercial organics and recycling bins.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

- 4. JOINT PUBLIC LANDS PLANS**

- A staff report dated February 15, 2007 was before Council.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manger, Capital District presented the report outlining the following:

- Joint Public Lands Plans;
- The Study Areas and Land Ownership;
- The Project Teams;
- Acclaim for the Projects;
- Genesis of the Public Lands Plans;
- Synergy with Other Initiatives;
- What the Public Lands Plans Deliver;
- The Study Process; and
- Public Consultation and Work Shop Schedule.
- Public consultation on the Land Use Development Strategies occurred during week long sessions.
- Key stakeholders and the public attended and participated.
- The consultation was highly interactive.
- Both projects have a volunteer advisory committee component.

Mr. John Hessiltine, Project Manager, EDM presented advised:

- The plans consist of areas such as The Spring Garden Road Commercial Area Plan, The Clyde Street Parking Lot, The Dalhousie University, The Memorial Library, Spring Garden Road is the highest trafficked pedestrian area in the Region,
- The Joint Public Lands Plan outlines the potential for a new library building, a justice centre, Dalhousie Discovery Centre, and a mixed use of residential and office buildings to service the area,
- The public participation element of the plan consisted of two week long sessions that were well attended,
- An area model was developed out of the consultation process.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

- Three concepts were evaluated, and concept # 3 was the favoured choice,
- The concepts are simply guidelines to provide a framework for the area,
- The plan will reflect a positive pedestrian environment with the intent to reinforce Spring Garden Road access,
- The Memorial Library re-development will include preservation of the walkway and the lands in front of the building.

Councillor Murphy entered the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

- The plan proposed a Park of 20,000 sq. ft to connect to the Dalhousie Campus,
- The consultants are pleased with the progress and the hard work from Provincial and Municipal staff.

At this point, Councillor Sloane placed the following motion:

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council adopt in principle the Joint Public Lands Plans respecting the Spring Garden/ Queen Street areas and direct staff to develop and execute an updated Memorandum of Understanding between HRM and the Province for the implementation stages of the Plans. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Fillmore advised:

- The concepts were invented in the public forum,
- The urban design guidelines and the matrix will be the foundation for a Request for Quotation (RFQ),
- The report suggests that the Memorial Library become commercially owned,
- HRM will maintain ownership to all of the grounds surrounding the Memorial Library,
- The project would be best served by concentrating on the staff recommendations and not the options, as options can be modified and changed over time.

At this time, Council took a 10 minute recess.

When Council returned, the following motion was placed.

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that item 5 be moved up on the agenda and be dealt with immediately. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. HRM BY DESIGN: URBAN DESIGN VISION AND PRINCIPLES AND INCREASE TO CONTRACT**

- A staff Report dated February 17, 2007 was before Council.
- A committee report dated February 27, 2007 was before Council.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.

Ms. Jennifer Keesmaat, Partner, Office for Urbanism provided an overview of the report

and project progress, noting the following:

- The Urban Design Vision Statement provides a broad mission for the function, look and feel of the Regional Centre. It builds on the areas inherent assets and potential strengths to set the overreaching intent and objective for urban design,
- The Vision statement was prepared in the context of Forum #1 and was derived from workshop outcomes,
- The Regional Centre is the symbolic, historic and functional heart of the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Regional Centre will build on distinctions and assets to nurture an urban context that will enhance quality of life enriches urban living and becomes a global destination,
- The Regional Centre will assert and affirm a legible and ordered urban structure that will reinforce the best qualities and characteristics of its unique neighbourhoods and districts,
- The Regional Centres cultural vitality is rooted in its diverse population,
- The Regional Centres vibrancy, animation and economic health will be strengthened through the cultivation of a compact, civic inspired and human-scaled urban fabric of streets, blocks and buildings.

Ms. Keesmaat advised of the Urban Design Guiding Principles including sustainability, high quality, heritage and culture, movement, complete neighbourhoods, growth and change, process, and connection.

She further advised that the urban design approach for bringing the Vision Statement to fruition is organized around five key “Campaigns for a Great City.” The five campaigns include a sustainable city, a city of livable and complete neighbourhoods, a distinct and unique city, a city of vibrant and exciting places, and a beautiful city.

Following discussion by Members of Council, the following motion was placed:

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Snow that Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve HRM by Design’s statement of “Urban Design Vision and Principles” as outlined in the report and recommended by the Urban Design Task Force.**
- 2. Authorize an increase to the original contract with the Office for Urbanism in the amount of \$205,823.71 (net HST included) with funding from accounts CDV00738-Centre Plans/Design, C779-6919- Capital District Operating, and CPG00899- Halifax Common Master Plan as indicated in the Budget Implications Section of this report.**

3. **Approve a capital budget increase to allow external cost-sharing for the project scope expansion as outlined in this report, in the amount of \$41,372, net HST included.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4. **JOINT PUBLIC LANDS PLANS**- Continued

Mr. Gordon Smith, CBCL, continued with the presentation, outlining the following:

- Urban Design Guidelines for Province House;
- Urban Design Guidelines for Granville Street Pedestrianization;
- Urban Design for Birks/Truscan Site;
- The Future of the Dennis Building;
- Urban Design for Grand Parade;
- Resolution of Joint Parking Issues;
- Urban Design Guidelines for Argyle Street;
- Grand Parade Long Term Underground Parking;and
- Event Seating and a Casual Gathering Area.

Councillor Stretch entered the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

The following motion was placed:

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane seconded by Hendsbee that Committee of the Whole recommend that Regional Council:**

1. **Adopt in principle the Joint Public Lands Plans respecting the Grand Parade/Province House areas and direct staff to develop and execute an updated Memorandum of Understanding between HRM and the Province for the implementation stages of the Plans.**
2. **Authorize HRM staff to enter into negotiations with the Province for the transfer of the Infirmary site to HRM in return for the Tuscan (former Birk's) site and other such lands as may be necessary to make the exchange of equal value.**
3. **Designate, in principle, lands at the corner of the Spring Garden/Queen Street as the preferred site for a new HRM Central Public Library.**

4. **Authorize HRM staff to proceed with developing a call for proposals for the future development of the Spring Garden/Queen Street (including the Clyde Street Parking Lots) lands and a building program for a new Central Public Library in accordance with the principles set out in the Spring Garden/Queen Street Plan; and**
5. **Relocate parking from Grand Parade to the Tuscan site by the end of the fiscal year on April 1, 2007.**

Council expressed the following concerns, noting:

- Safety around government offices. It was recommended that cameras and lighting be included in the parking proposal for the Tuscan site,
- A skating rink on the City Hall grounds.
- April 1, 2007 time line for the parking re-location.
- Using Provincial lands for parking.
- It was recommended that free parking be allocated for Committee Members.
- Temporary nature of the parking proposal.

Mr. Wayne Anstey advised that there are currently 38 customers that rent space on the Tuscan site on a month-to-month basis. These customers will be informed of the end of their agreement in advance.

It was suggested that a garden proposal replace the rink and bleachers proposal.

In response to Council's concerns, Mr Fillmore advised:

- Staff is proceeding with a proposal for parking on the north end of Parade Square,
- The cost of the parking re-location will be absorbed by HRM and will be included in the 2007 budget,
- There will be a "no parking" regulation enforced in Parade Square once the re-location is complete,
- Approximately six spots will be allotted for St. Paul's Church parking.

After a brief discussion concerning the date of the parking re-location, the following motion was placed:

**MOVED By Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Wile that the relocation of**

parking from Grand Parade to the Truscan site become effective at the latest by September 1, 2007. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk