

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
May 18, 2004**

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Streach (Regrets to 3:00 p.m.)
Councillors: David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Harry McInroy
Brian Warshick (2:25 p.m.)
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sheila Fougere (2:55 p.m.)
Sue Uteck
Russell Walker (1:45 p.m.)
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Robert Harvey
Len Goucher
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors: Krista Snow
Steve Adams
Brad Johns

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

Table of Contents

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 13, 14, 15, 16 & 20, 2004	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
4.	REGIONAL PLANNING	3
	Economic Potential Study	4
	Capital District Urban Design Study	6
5.	HALIFAX WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN	8
6.	ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 13, 14, 15, 16 & 20, 2004

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the minutes of April 13, 14, 15, 16 & 20, 2004, be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the Agenda be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. REGIONAL PLANNING

Ms. Carol Macomber, Project Manager, Regional Planning, provided opening remarks. Copies of her presentation, which included the following were circulated to the Committee:

- C Regional Planning Themes
- C Research Summaries and Spring Deliverables
- C Regional Planning Deliverables
- C Today's Reports
- C Themes
- C Next Steps
- C Contact Information

In response to questions and concerns expressed by members of Council, staff made the following points:

- C This is not the entire list of deliverables but only the Regional Plan spring deliverables. Council will see projects across the region come forward in the future.
- C There are issues on Main Street/Highway #7 to be addressed by the Regional Plan. Council was invited to a workshop last week regarding changes to the legislature, which may need to be prioritized for the fall and next spring.
- C The Open House sessions commenced last week. Once they are completed, staff will prepare a report and report back to Council in the late fall.
- C With respect to a process to prioritize projects in Regional Planning, staff would

- report incrementally. If there was work ready, it would be brought forward. The Capital District was being brought forward today as it was started earlier.
- C In the late fall, staff will bring forward a policy document and land use recommendations, etc.
- C All projects are outlined in the research summary received by Council last week. There may be a few research projects added over the summer.
- C The Capital District work is work under the Regional Plan framework. A lot of the work to be done will be determined by the alternative taken.
- C The Regional Transportation Plan will look at main arteries and make recommendations for transit or roadway improvements. A lot of the reporting will come forward in the next few months on the Regional Plan. All reports will flow from the Regional Plan principles and the Capital District vision.
- C Staff could schedule a couple of days for Council to see the results all at once if it wishes.
- C Staff's responsibility in the Regional Plan is to be equally responsible to tomorrow's council and residents. Neighbourhoods cannot be managed under this project. The future is the reason for the Regional Plan.

The following comments, concerns and requests were put forth by members of Council:

- C A request was made for an on-going report on how much money has been spent in the Capital District.
- C There are other areas of HRM that need attention.
- C Concern was expressed regarding the number of staff being relocated to the Capital District and the Regional Plan.
- C The Capital District improvements will aid all of HRM as it is the economic engine of HRM.
- C The Capital District plan will be a template for other areas.
- C Concern was expressed with the amount of focus on the Capital District.
- C The Regional Plan should be brought back to Council as a package so everyone has a fair shot to get something.

(Councillor Walker took his place at the meeting at 1:45 p.m.)

- C Concern was expressed with approving the reports "in principle" and it was suggested that each report be approved as it comes forward.
- C Residents are worried about infrastructure now not 25 years down the road.
- C It was questioned why District 11 is the only district on the Peninsula not in the Capital District.

Economic Potential Study

- C An information report prepared for Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance

and Strategic Initiatives, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Ms. Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, introduced Mr. Mike Gardner, Consultant, Gardner Pinfold.

Mr. Gardner presented the discussion paper to the Committee. Copies of his presentation were provided.

The presentation included the following:

- C Major Themes
- C Key Characteristics
- C HRM Employment
 - C Employment Growth
 - C Employment Shift
- C Planning Issues
- C Economic Drivers
- C Significant Industries
- C Natural Resources
- C Traditional Industries
- C Halifax Harbour
- C Halifax - A Working Harbour
- C Location Trends - Offices
- C Location Trends - Retail
- C Universities - Health
- C Port & Shipping

(Councillor Warshick took his place at the meeting at 2:25 p.m.)

Councillor Uteck expressed concern that gas will never be available on the Halifax side unless the hospitals and universities are convinced to obtain it. The Councillor also raised the issue of concurrent construction. Mr. McLellan stated some pipe work has been laid, but noted it is a huge economical challenge for Heritage Gas to get across the harbour.

Mr. Gardner noted the more industrial the harbour becomes, the conflict arises between public access and security. Security is an increasing issue and access will be constrained.

Responding to questions of Council, Mr. Gardner made the following points:

- C The Halifax economy is largely a service economy with 15% manufacturing. If costs rise, it makes it difficult for HRM to compete, and if taxes are higher, HRM becomes less attractive.
- C Cost is the most important factor in choosing where a business locates.

- C Good planning means making wise decisions on resource allocation.
- C Producing services increases the economy and the cost structure will be affected by property tax and cost of construction.
- C There is a trend to locate businesses away from the downtown. If it costs more, they may choose to locate in a suburban park as it makes good business sense.

(Councillor Fougere took her place at the meeting at 2:55 p.m.)

(Deputy Mayor Streach took his place at the meeting at 3:00 p.m.)

Councillor Mosher stated she would like pedestrian access to be examined as part of growth.

Councillor Hetherington questioned if the restrictions on the Burnside Industrial Park should be lifted to allow for highrises to limit some of the outward infiltration. Ms. MacDonald responded that staff will be looking at all those strategies.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for their presentation.

RECESS

A recess was taken at 3:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

Capital District Urban Design Study

- C A staff report prepared for Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration. The report recommended *that Regional Council endorse, in principle, the results of the Capital District Urban Design Study as outlined in the staff report dated May 12, 2004 as a framework to strategically guide future programming and capital investment within the Capital District.*

Holly Richardson presented the staff report to Council. Copies of her presentation, which included the following, were provided:

- C Study purpose
- C Study process
- C Study components
- C Capital District Visual Identity
- C Way-Finding System
- C Way-Finding Signage
- C Streetscape Design Guidelines
- C Streetscape Improvement Plans
- C Priority Capital Improvements

- C Best Practices Research
- C Implementation
- C Moving Forward

Following a brief discussion, the following motion was put:

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the Regional Planning reports presented at Committee of the Whole on May 18, 2004 be received and tabled, and included with the information for the Regional Planning process that is anticipated to be completed in June 2005. Further, that staff report back to Council on an as needed basis to keep Council updated on projects. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Responding to questions of Council, Ms. Hamilton made the following points:

- C The \$1 million is part of Council's approved capital budget.
- C The signage system will direct people to key attractions. The template of this system could be easily transferred to other communities

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern with the signage lettering and suggested white lettering on a dark background may be more readable.

Mr. McLellan stated that he hoped the tabling of these reports would still permit staff to come back with projects as needed to move the plan forward.

Capital District Public Facilities Needs and Opportunities Study

- C An information report prepared for Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Planner, presented the report to Council, copies of which were circulated. The presentation included the following highlights:

- C Study goal
- C Approach
- C Recommendations
- C Economy
 - C Institutions
 - C Tourism
 - C Conventions & Major Events
 - C Oil and Gas Sector
- C Quality of Life

- C Recreation
- C Arts and Culture
- C Affordable Housing
- C Transportation
- C Public Property Recommendations
- C Recommended Priorities
- C Process and Next Steps

Councillor Blumenthal expressed concern that the study did not address downtown traffic problems.

Responding to questions of Councillor Cooper, Mr. McLellan stated a long-term budgeting process will be developed.

Councillor Warshick expressed concern that the study did not appear to include any major infrastructure for the eastern region and stated that he hopes when the time comes to make a decision the whole picture is examined.

5. HALIFAX WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN

- C An information report prepared for Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning and Development, regarding the above, was before the Committee for its consideration.

It was agreed to defer this issue to the next meeting and that the Waterfront Development Corporation be permitted to address Council at that time.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Acting Municipal Clerk