

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**June 28, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Len Goucher  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee (1:45 p.m.)  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger (1:55 p.m.)  
Becky Kent  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy (1:50 p.m.)  
Dawn Sloane (2:25 p.m.)  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere (1:45 p.m.)  
Russell Walker (2:45 p.m.)  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey (2:10 p.m.)  
Reg Rankin  
Gary G. Meade

**REGRETS:**

Councillor Harry McInroy  
Councillor Bill Karsten  
Councillor Stephen D. Adams

**STAFF:**

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Wile the minutes of June 14, 2005 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**1. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**2. LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Dr. Tom Traves, President of Dalhousie University, addressed Council and along with Dr. Ivar Mendez, gave a presentation on the proposed Life Sciences Research Institute. In his remarks, Dr. Traves noted that the Capital Health District Association, IWK Health Centre, and Dalhousie University are partnering on the proposal, and the main tenant of the complex will be Dr. Mendez and his team from the Brain Repair Centre. He explained that the last research facility constructed in Halifax was the Tupper Building and it was built in 1967. They have since outgrown their space, and this has hampered their capacity to carry out research and to attract researchers.

Dr. Traves advised that the proposed facility is a five-storey, 100,000 square foot building to be situated at the corner of Summer and College Streets on land controlled by Dalhousie University. The cost is 34 million dollars and will be funded by the Federal and Provincial Governments, university, and health care partners. Dr. Traves pointed out that this project will expand the reputation of Halifax as a smart city, and as a region for future economic growth. Noting the various partners involved in the project, Dr. Traves pointed out that there is a wide and strong base of support in the community. He added that the Mayor and senior officials have been kept informed as the project has developed and, at this point, they were looking for moral and political support for the project from HRM. Dr. Traves advised that they have received a significant contribution from the Provincial Government; they have raised funds from the private sector, and are now looking to the Federal Government to complete the major funding for the project.

Dr. Traves then introduced Dr. Ivar Mendez, Director of the Brain Repair Centre, and head of the Neurosurgery Division. Dr. Mendez, addressed Council and, using a computer

presentation, outlined the work he and his colleagues at the Brain Repair Centre have been carrying out to date, and their future plans.

Dr. Mendez elaborated on the various technology used at the brain repair centre, the types of cases referred to them, and the huge potential this technology and expertise has to offer not only to this region but on a world-wide scale. He advised that this was making Halifax a world leader in the area of neurosurgery.

In concluding the presentation, Dr. Traves advised that, the proposal will enable Halifax to attract the best minds in research, and with the potential of the technology developed at the Brain Repair Centre, Halifax is poised to become a world leader in this area. In turn, Halifax then becomes a very attractive community in which to locate because it is seen as a place with a sophisticated health care system providing the best in science, technology, cultural, and quality of life available.

A discussion ensued with Dr. Traves and Dr. Mendez responding to questions from members of Council.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Kent that Regional Council prepare a letter expressing strong support for the proposed Life Sciences Research Institute, as presented by Dr. Tom Traves and Dr. Ivar Mendez, and that the letter commend the Provincial Government for its contribution to the project, and further request the area's Federal Members of Parliament to promote this as worthy priority at the Federal level. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. PROPOSED BY-LAW C-500, COMMERCIAL USE OF MUNICIPAL LANDS**  
(Staff Presentation)

Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority, and Mr. Phil Francis, Right-of-Way Services Manager, Transportation and Public Works Services were in attendance to give and overview and provide an update with regard to Bylaw C-500 respecting commercial use of Municipal Lands. Mr. Reashor indicated that staff was looking for feedback from Council in terms of the bylaw, noting that they would be coming forward with the final recommendations at a later date.

Mr. Reashor's presentation focussed on the background and purpose of the proposed by-law, objectives, the highlights of the proposed bylaw, enforcement, and consultation. With regard to the next steps, Mr. Reashor advised that he anticipated in early September he would have the bylaw finalized and before Council.

Council entered a lengthy discussion with Mr. Reashor and Mr. Francis responding to questions.

In response to Mr. Reashor's request for feedback, the following comments, concerns, and questions were put forward by Council:

C concern was expressed that telecommunications equipment and Canada

- Post boxes are indiscriminately placed in the right-of-way and it was requested that this issue be addressed in the bylaw.
- C concern expressed about the number of local newspaper boxes and the cost to HRM associated with cleaning up the litter created from flyers.
  - C suggestion that the Councillors be included in a review of the vending sites pertaining to their districts.
  - C the actual title of the bylaw needs clarification (for example: The Bylaw Respecting Commercial Vending on Municipal Lands; or The Bylaw Respecting Commercial Retail Use of Municipal Lands.
  - C staff come back to Council and review some of the other issues and policies regarding right-of-way use.

At 3:10 p.m. Mayor Kelly left meeting and Deputy Mayor Goucher assumed the Chair.

- C ensure the bylaw gives consideration to disabled individuals (it was noted that, due to the number of outdoor patios, Argyle Street is a very difficult street for the disabled to navigate).
- C ensure the by-law addresses litter produced by vendors.

At 3:20 Mayor Kelly returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair

- C concern was expressed with regard to price gouging by some vendors and a question was asked if HRM's Special Events Committee will have discretion with regard to vendors price lists.
- C concern expressed that the bylaw will result in downtown Halifax being inundated with vendor requests.
- C ensure the bylaw addresses the maintenance of vending newspaper boxes, e.g. graffiti
- C noted that health regulations do not permit meat and beverages to be mixed together, and therefore, bylaw should ensure that vendors are permitted two coolers and not just one.
- C inspections, permits, etc. be carried out in one location.
- C some of the issues raised are legitimate for an urban area, but they are not as much a concern for smaller communities; concern that the bylaw may create hardship for some of the community groups in the smaller locales who rely on vending as a fund-raiser.
- C what can be done to ensure that more than one vendor does not show up at the same site.

#### **4. HRM AND HALIFAX REGIONAL WATER COMMISSION RELATIONSHIP**

- C An information report dated June 21, 2005 was submitted.
- C A memorandum dated June 28, 2005 from the Municipal Clerk was submitted

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Wile that Council approve**

**the actions proposed in Attachment A of the Halifax Regional Water Commission report of June 23, 2005 (an attachment to item #6). The proposed actions will serve to strengthen ties between Halifax Regional Water Commission and Halifax Regional Municipality, and increase the cooperation between the two organizations in areas that create operational, technical, or financial benefits for one or both organizations to the ultimate benefit of Halifax Regional Municipality residents.**

Mr. Carl Yates, General Manager, Halifax Regional Water Commission and Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Manager, Environmental Management Services responded to questions of Council.

Due to time constraints Councillor Hendsbee suggested this item be deferred to the July 5, 2005 Committee of the Whole and placed as the first item of business, in order that Council members could discuss the report more in-depth.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Murphy that this matter be deferred to the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 5, 2005. THE MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk