

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES

December 15, 2009

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Barry Dalrymple  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicholl  
Gloria McCluskey  
Darren Fisher  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary While  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Robert P. Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Christen MacDonald, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None**

**3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREAS**

**Public Safety**

- A report on Public Safety Progress 2009/10 Council Focus Areas was before Council.
- A report on Partnering for Public Safety was tabled with Council.
- A copy of the presentation was circulated to Council.

Superintendent Donald Spicer, Public Safety Officer, Halifax Regional Police delivered the presentation on Public Safety. Highlights were as follows:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Halifax District conducted a series of town hall meetings in November 2009, as part of part of their community engagement strategy.
- Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, will be holding town hall meetings in the spring of 2010.
- Superintendent Spicer has been conducting a program analysis of the functions performed through the Units within the Public Safety Office.
- The African Nova Scotian Public Safety Working Group has been involved in consultations with representatives in the African Nova Scotian communities, in particular the clergy within the HRM.
- The Working Group anticipates developing a process for a restorative justice practice in dealing with diversity and youth violence issues. The next meeting will be in January 2010.
- In January 2009 the Liquor Enforcement Unit (LEU) partnered with the Alcohol and Gaming Division (AGD) to enhance education and enforcement efforts regarding underage sections of the Liquor Control Act (LCA) and the liquor licensing regulations.
- Regular inspections will be a significant aspect of the LEU and AGD daily operations for the licensees and the community in the downtown core.
- In excess of 200 inspections of liquor establishments has taken place and the following issued:
  - 162 charges under the LCA
  - 25 criminal code charges
  - 22 directors meetings with the Alcohol and Gaming, which resulted in restrictions being placed on an establishment or suspension

- 1 charge under the Control Substance Act
- 3 license suspensions
- During Operation Fallback of 2009 the following were issued:
  - 230 noise complaint tickets (decrease of 60 calls)
  - 43 HRM By-law tickets (up from previous years)
  - 152 illegal possession for liquor charges were laid (increase of 74 tickets)
  - 43 tickets for underage drinking (increase of 20 tickets)
  - 5 environmental act tickets for littering
- Jane Nauss, Manager, Community Response Team, Public Safety Office, is Chairing a Working Group with representatives from other HRM business units, HRM Regional Councillors and Dalhousie and Saint Mary's University.
- The Working Group has assessed the walking corridors of Dalhousie and Saint Mary's University using crime prevention through environmental design principles. As a result, trees have been trimmed, lighting has been improved and educational materials has been provided to all residents along those corridors.
- Recommendations have been made regarding taxi and limousine services which include the elimination of taxi zones to deal with deadheading. Should the recommendation pass, drivers from all zones can transport passengers from the downtown core regardless of the destination. If the zones remain, staff recommend that there be an increase to the existing zoning exception hours.
- Marilyn Smith, Volunteer Coordinator of HRM, Community Development, is collaborating with staff responsible for volunteer services within HRM, HRP, Fire and Emergency Services and RCMP to coordinate the respective volunteer services.
- HRP has approximately 162 leadership facilitator training programs which includes:
  - Burnside Watch - 14
  - Central Division, citizens on patrol - 6
  - East Division, citizens on patrol - 11
  - West Division, citizens on patrol - 15
  - HRP Youth Program - 26
  - Victim Services - 25
  - Cops and Kids Youth Leaders - 16
  - Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators - approximately 24
- RCMP has approximately 300 volunteers
- The Community Response Team hosted the following:
  - an HRM volunteer symposium for police volunteers
  - Nova Scotia Crime Prevention conference, which trained 23 HRM staff members in crime prevention through environmental design concepts
  - conducted approximately 30 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits
- The Community Response Team also updated the Graffiti Management Plan.
- A comprehensive internal and external communication plan will be developed to educate citizens and staff about the work from the Public Safety Office and will provide crime prevention information to the public.

- A Facebook page has been created to assist in distributing the information to the public.

Councillor Hum entered the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Councillor Wile entered the meeting at 11:26 p.m.

Councillor Sloane entered the meeting at 11:32 p.m.

Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 11:48 p.m.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- Concern was raised regarding HRM using liquor corporations for sponsors at HRM functions. Alternative sponsorships should be sought out.
- Schools are working on opening their doors for recreational use
- Andrew Whitemore, Manager, Community Development to provide input regarding the facility master plan
- Discussions are taking place with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia regarding programs available for youth.
- Council will be discussing the Taxi and Limousine matter at the first meeting in January.
- Metro Transit will not be implementing late night busing
- Lack of parking on Argyle Street is a disincentive for citizens travelling to the downtown core
- Clarification provided regarding 211 initiative, which will be a joint initiative with the United Way agency.
- HRM Police had concerns expressed regarding gangs harassing people leaving the bars on Argyle Street. Not allowing citizens to park on Argyle Street has reduced the assaults. This matter will be up for discussion in 2010.
- Superintendent Spicer has been meeting with the IWK to look into programs for youth ages 0-5.
- In response in a question raised by Council, staff advised that the Nova Scotia Community Court system is open and is in the very early stages. Staff noted that the Mental Health Court is on the horizon for the future.

Councillor Blumenthal entered the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

- Needs to be more feedback on meetings which have taken place with community leaders regarding race relations.
- Councillors have not been provided minutes, reports or any other information regarding the diversity plan.
- The African Baptist Church Association has plans to discuss the over representation of black youth in the criminal justice system with their communities.

- HRM has to empower individuals to go back and work within their communities
- HRP is doing a lot of leadership programming and getting people to learn what leadership is, particularly in troubled communities throughout the area.
- The Race Relations Committee should be more of a multicultural committee.
- As Chief Beazley had previously noted, the Public Safety Office is holding consultations and they hope to find a solution that will work. If the determination is to set up a committee, then this is the direction they will take. Chief Beazley also noted that there was previous circumstances of having a committee with no support. This will become part of the business planning discussions as they move forward.

Council recessed at 12:10 p.m.

Council reconvened at 1:22 p.m.

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### **Community Planning**

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development, provided the presentation on Community Planning. Highlights were as follows:

- Halifax Water is included under the Community Planning heading as well
- HRM recently established the first Heritage Conservation District in the province
- For the record, while providing housing services is not a municipal responsibility staff believes that the municipality could make an impact on the affordability of housing within HRM
- A Housing Affordability Functional Plan will be created over the next several years
- Halifax Water will be commencing their Water Resource Study in 2010
- Staff would like to create a multi year plan for supervised beaches in HRM and identify those in greatest need of upgrade
- There were currently at least three grandfathered applications in downtown Halifax which were exempt from HRMbyDesign and will go through the Public Hearing process.

A discussion ensued with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- The Urban Design process regarding the Regional Centre was not included in the report before Council. Priorities for these Districts will be established in 2010
- It was open to debate whether or not downtown Dartmouth required Community Visioning as their downtown plan was recently completed in early 2000
- The Groundwater Resources Study was designed to identify those areas of HRM where the well water was not sufficient to support existing or future development and, as a result, identify what areas should be brought into municipal water services
- Regarding the Affordable Housing Functional Plan, the first step would be to complete a population projection to define estimates for demand in order to get a sense of what was possible in HRM. Council will be provided with interim updates.

Councillor Karsten entered the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Councillor Streach entered the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor, advised that there was currently a series of meetings underway with Service Nova Scotia Municipal Relations staff to discuss spring legislative initiatives. She noted that vacant buildings were on the list to see if there was a better approach to deal with this topic.

The remaining two Council Focus Areas, Transportation and Infrastructure, were deferred due to lack of time.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Cathy Mellett  
Acting Municipal Clerk