

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

October 4, 2011

REVISED

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Jim Smith
Councillors: Steve Streach
Barry Dalrymple
David Hendsbee
Lorelei Nicoll
Gloria McCluskey
Darren Fisher
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Mary Wile
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Jennifer Watts
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Peter Lund

REGRETS: Councillors: Stephen Adams
Reg Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Kirby Grant, Acting Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Sherrill Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – None

3. REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW SCOPE AND WORKPLAN

This item was deferred from the September 13, 2011 meeting.

The following information was before Council:

- Report from the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee dated August 22, 2011, with attached July 27, 2011 staff report
- A copy of the October 4, 2011 staff presentation
- A copy of the September 13, 2011 staff presentation
- Correspondence from:
 - Our HRM Alliance Steering Committee dated September 12, 2011
 - Halifax Chamber of Commerce dated October 4, 2011
 - Bloomfield Neighbourhood Residents' Association dated September 16, 2011
 - Alan and Francoise Longhurst dated September 13, 2011
 - Marsha Parker, Peninsula South Community Association and Old South End Neighbourhood Watch dated September 13, 2011

Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Urban Design, presented the Regional Plan 5 year review and the HRMbyDesign Centre Plan.

Mr. Fillmore responded to questions from Council.

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that Halifax Regional Council approve:

- 1. Initiation of the process for the five year review of the *Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS)* in accordance with RMPS Policy IM-9;**
- 2. The scope and schedule for the *Regional Plan 5 Year Review* project as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report;**
- 3. The scope and schedule for the *HRMbyDesign Centre Plan* project as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report;**
- 4. The proposed restructuring of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee (RPAC) and the Urban Design Task Force (UDTF) into a single advisory committee to advise Council on the *Regional Plan 5 Year Review* and the**

***HRMbyDesign Centre Plan* project, and in so-doing, disband the existing Regional Plan Advisory Committee and Urban Design Task Force;**

- 5. Establishing the proposed Community Design Advisory Committee as the primary advisory committee advising Regional Council, through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, on the *Regional Plan 5 Year Review* and the *HRMbyDesign Centre Plan*, both of which are projects of regional significance.**

Councillor McCluskey noted concern with the lack of communication and consultation with Dartmouth residents and herself as Councillor for downtown Dartmouth. She suggested that another member of Council be added to the Committee composition, to include two Councillors from the Regional Centre – one from Dartmouth and one from Halifax.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the composition of the Community Design Advisory Committee be amended to twelve (12) members to include two (2) Regional Councillors, one from each Dartmouth and Halifax, whose districts lie within the Regional Centre. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Watts commented on the need for consultation, noting that residents need a forum to talk to one another about the plans, to hear what their communities have to say, and not just talk to staff. She suggested that staff have documents from phase one available for residents to review and refresh their memories.

Mr. Fillmore responded to questions regarding the review process, clarifying that staff will, subject to consultation, take forward what is working and valued, and deliver it as a more user friendly package. Staff will be focusing on protecting existing neighbourhoods with detailed neighbourhood plans, and making improvements to the as-of-right development process.

Councillor Sloane suggested that the community consultation workshops held for the central library were successful, and staff use this model for consultation on the review.

Mr. Fillmore further clarified that the consultation process will be brought to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for approval, and that the consultation process will be undertaken neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

Councillor Nicoll commented on the need for a strong regional centre, with balance on each side of the harbour. She suggested that well informed staff be available for dialogue with those attending the public consultation meetings.

Responding to concerns that the public does not have the resources and knowledge to propose changes to the as-of-right development process, Mr. Fillmore indicated that more public consultation needs to be carried out on this subject.

Mr. Fillmore further clarified that a costs and benefits analysis needs to be developed for different density scenarios, and that staff will create a fact resource to this effect.

Responding to comments on the need for affordable housing on the peninsula, Mr. Fillmore indicated that can be achieved through the density bonusing option, and that accessory suites in single family homes may help to make family housing more affordable on the peninsula.

Responding to questions regarding the deferral of the Road Network Functional Plan until after the completion of the Regional Plan Review, Mr. Fillmore indicated that the Regional Plan directs action down through the functional plans, and that the review will affect the Road Network Functional Plan, as well as the other functional plans.

Discussion ensued regarding the composition of the Community Design Advisory Committee, with Mr. Fillmore clarifying that in order for the Committee to have the ability to meet the mandate and timelines, the number of members needs to remain manageable. Also, in order to avoid exclusion, membership will be based on credentials, as opposed to specific organizations or groups.

Responding to questions regarding the implementation of community visioning projects, Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, advised that the community visioning processes already in progress will continue through to implementation.

Council recessed at 12:05 p.m.

Council reconvened at 1:25 p.m., with the following motion on the floor:

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that Halifax Regional Council approve:

- 1. Initiation of the process for the five year review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS) in accordance with RMPS Policy IM-9;**
- 2. The scope and schedule for the Regional Plan 5 Year Review project as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report;**
- 3. The scope and schedule for the HRMbyDesign Centre Plan project as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report;**
- 4. The proposed restructuring of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee (RPAC) and the Urban Design Task Force (UDTF) into a single advisory committee to advise Council on the Regional Plan 5 Year Review and the HRMbyDesign Centre Plan project, and in so-doing, disband the existing Regional Plan Advisory Committee and Urban Design Task Force;**

5. **Establishing the proposed Community Design Advisory Committee as the primary advisory committee advising Regional Council, through the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, on the Regional Plan 5 Year Review and the HRMbyDesign Centre Plan, both of which are projects of regional significance.**

The following amendment to the composition of the Community Design Advisory Committee was already approved (this was a change from one Councillor whose district lies in the Regional Centre to two, ie: Halifax and Dartmouth):

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the composition of the Community Design Advisory Committee be amended to twelve (12) members to include two (2) Regional Councillors whose districts lie within the Regional Centre. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Andy Fillmore and Mr. Austin French responded to further questions from Council.

The following points were noted:

- When defining 'density' in the policy staff was asked to consider medium and low rise buildings, and not high-rise buildings only.

At 1:30 p.m. Mr. Richard Butts, CAO entered the meeting.

At 1:34 p.m. Councillor Hendsbee entered the meeting.

- Ensure the public engagement process includes the suburban and rural areas as well as the urban; staff were asked to use the local newspapers and multi-media in their approach to engaging the public.
- Transit plans need to be incorporated into the Review.
- The visioning programs currently underway will be completed; no new visioning programs will be started while the Review is underway.

At 1:45 p.m. Councillor Harvey entered the meeting.

At 1:46 p.m. Councillor Johns entered the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the composition of the Committee be increased to 14 with two of those members being 'citizens at large'. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Nicoll pointed out that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee had appointed Councillor Uteck to the new proposed Committee as a representative of the Regional Centre. She noted that the present motion on the floor does not reflect this.

In light of this information, the Mayor advised that the motion was to include reference that Councillor Uteck was appointed by the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee to the Community Design Advisory Committee as a Regional Centre Representative.

In response to concern expressed with the motion to add two additional 'citizen-at-large' positions to the Committee; and with Councillor Sloane expressing a desire to sit as a representative of the Regional Centre, it was **MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the composition of the Committee reduce the two 'citizen at large' positions to one 'citizen at large' position, and that Councillor Sloane be appointed as a representative of the Regional Centre. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The amended motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, that Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Formally initiate the process for the five year review of the *Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS)* in accordance with RMPS Policy IM-9**
2. **Approve the scope and schedule for the *Regional Plan 5 Year Review* as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report.**
3. **Approve the scope and schedule for the *HRMbyDesign Centre Plan* project as outlined in the July 27, 2011 staff report.**
4. **Restructure the Urban Design Task Force and Regional Plan Advisory Committee into a single Committee to be known as the Community Design Advisory Committee encompassing the mandates for both the Regional Plan Advisory Committee and the Urban Design Task Force; and the disbanding of the existing Regional Plan Advisory Committee and the Urban Design Task Force.**

With the amendment that the composition of the Community Design Advisory Committee be amended to fourteen (14) members and to include three (3) Regional Councillors whose districts lie within the Regional Centre and one (1) additional citizen-at-large.

5. **Establish the Community Design Advisory Committee as the primary advisory committee to CP&ED and Regional Council for the RP+5 and Centre Plan Project.**
6. **As recommended by the CP & ED Standing Committee, that Councillor Uteck be one of the Councillors appointed to the new Community Design**

**Advisory as a Council member who's district is in the Regional Centre;
and, as recommended by Regional Council, that Councillor Sloane be one
of the Councillors appointed to the new Community Design Advisory
Committee as a Council member who's district is in the Regional Centre.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Cathy Mellett
Municipal Clerk