

Peninsula Community Council
MINUTES

December 14, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, Chair
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF: Mr. Randolph Kinghorn, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane that the minutes of November 9, 2009 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletion:

10.3.1 Peninsula Community Council Appointment to Grants Committee

Addition

12.1 Overnight Parking at Centennial Pool - Councillor Sloane

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET:**

4.1 **Status Sheet**

4.1.1 **Neighbourhood Downzoning**

No update was provided. This item is to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.2 **Mitchell's Enviro Depot Update**

Councillor Sloane provided a brief verbal update, noting that the negotiations were ongoing.

4.1.3 **CN Property Maintenance**

No update was provided. This item is to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.4 **Peninsula Place Flooding**

No update was provided. This item is to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.5 **Litter Receptacles in the area of Robie/North/Agricola/Almon**

No update was provided. This item is to remain on the Status Sheet.

4.1.6 Pedestrian Walk Light in the Urban Core

An Information Report dated November 18, 2009 was submitted.

Referring to the Information report, Councillor Watts advised that she had follow-up questions which she would like staff to respond to for the next meeting, scheduled for January 11, 2010. She referred to the last paragraph, under the Discussion Section of the report and noted that staff indicate that as traffic signals are upgraded, the type of operation will be determined on a case by case basis. Councillor Watts advised that she would like staff to inform Councillors of the potential locations for the pedestrian lights activated by the push button, prior to the activation of the new signals. On another point, Councillor Watts noted that this afternoon she discussed with staff the fact that, in some areas, the pedestrian activated lights are decommissioned during certain parts of the day. She added that she had discussed several locations where she would like this done and she requested that staff give consideration to these locations and respond in the report.

Councillor Sloane advised that this past Sunday a pedestrian was hit by a car on North Street. She noted that she has asked many times in the past that staff install an RA 5 light system in the area, and that she was requesting this again.

This item will remain on the Status Sheet.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION: None

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION: None

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS: None

8. HEARINGS

8.1 Public Hearings:

8.1.1 Case 01309: Rezoning - 5247 Morris Street, Halifax

- First Reading of this matter was given at a meeting held on November 9, 2009.
- A report dated October 27, 2009 from the Chair of the District 12 Planning Advisory Committee with an attached staff report dated October 6, 2009 was before Community Council for consideration.

Mr. Luc Ouellet, Planner, addressed Community Council and outlined the application by Terrain Group Inc. for the lands of Dalhousie University to rezone 5247 Morris Street, Halifax, from R-3 (Multiple Dwelling) Zone to U-2 (High Density University) Zone.

The Chair opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak to this matter.

Mr. Nathan Rogers, Terrain Group, advised that he was representing the applicant, Dalhousie University, and noted that it was their intent to maintain the existing structure in

the short term and to use it as office space. He added that the only comment received in regard to the application was about graffiti, however, this matter was beyond the scope of this application.

The Chair called three times for anyone else wishing to speak; there being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the public hearing close. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck that Peninsula Community Council approve the rezoning of 5247 Morris Street, Halifax, as shown on Schedule A of the Attachment of the staff report dated October 6, 2009, from the R-3 (Multiple Dwelling) Zone to the U-2 (High Density University) Zone. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Variance Appeal Hearings: None

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

9.1 Correspondence: None

9.2 Petitions: None

9.3 Presentations:

9.3.1 Presentation - Pilot Project - Active & Safe Routes to School

Ms. Cheyenne Dickinson, Community Advisory, Ecology Action Centre addressed Community Council and provided a presentation on the pilot project, entitled Active and Safe Routes to School. She advised that it was a school travel planning project designed to find out ways of getting back and forth to school by active transportation. She explained that the Centre started the project last year, and are currently working with five schools in the province. This year Westmount School was brought into the project and it has gone through the first step of data collection of baseline information. The next step will be to formulate an action plan to address the barriers to use active transportation methods.

Ms. Dickinson responded to questions from Community Council.

9.3.2 Presentation (Staff) - Draft, North Common Master Plan (oral)

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Mr. Rudy Vodicka, and Ms. Carol Robinson, Real Property Planning, provided a presentation on the draft Master Plan for the Halifax North Common (a copy of the presentation was submitted for the official file). The presentation began with a review of the key objectives and policies from the 1994 Halifax Common Plan and then moved on to the objectives of the draft Halifax North Common Master Plan, with a review of the existing conditions of the North Common and the key features of the draft Plan, highlighted as follows:

- Trees and Landscaping
- New Park Lighting

- Improved Pathways
- Seating Areas
- Neighbourhood Entrance Plazas
- Special Events Plaza
- Fountain /Redesign
- Public Art Opportunities

Staff responded to questions from Community Council.

In response to a question by Councillor Sloane, Mr. Vodicka advised that an Open House for residents has been scheduled for January 20, 2010 in Halifax Hall, City Hall

Councillor Sloane suggested that staff issue a press release about a week in advance ensure the residents are well informed about the Open House.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern that the Plan would result in the removal of one of the ball diamonds, and that there is nothing that addresses this issue.

Mr. Bigelow responded that staff are not looking to have any drastic changes. He added that the ball diamond which will be eliminated has had water problems for years, resulting in minimal play.

Councillor Uteck noted that the Plan is not set in stone and that a public information meeting and consultation, particularly with sporting groups that use the area, is required because the main use of the Common has been for sports.

In response to a question by Councillor Watts in regard to funding, Mr. Bigelow advised that it is a multi-year plan, with a total cost of \$2.6 million. Regional Council has approved \$750,000; \$400,000 of which has come from the hotel tax.

10. REPORTS:

10.1 Staff Reports:

10.1.1 Vandalism Hotline

Councillor Blumenthal requested Councillor Sloane to take the Chair in order that he could speak to this matter.

A staff report dated November 24, 2009 was submitted.

Councillor Blumenthal indicated that he was disappointed with the recommendation in the report to maintain status quo, but will encourage his residents to contact 911 when they see vandalism occurring.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Watts that the November 24, 2009 staff report on Vandalism Hotline be accepted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Blumenthal assumed the Chair, and Councillor Sloane took her usual seat in

Community Council.

10.1.2 Approval of 2010 meeting Schedule

A report dated December 4, 2009 was submitted from the Legislative Assistant.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Uteck that Peninsula Community Council approve the following meeting schedule for 2010:

**January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14
September 13
November 8
December 13**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Committee Reports: None

10.3 Members of Peninsula Community Council:

10.3.1 Peninsula Community Council Appointment to Grants Committee

This item was deleted from the agenda.

11. MOTIONS:

11.1 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane that staff provide a report on the Halifax Common which would include an analysis of the 2 concerts this past summer (economic analysis of the concerts and impact on regular users of the commons due to field closures); an outline of the plans currently in place to make upgrades to the Common (electrical power sources, trail enhancement, etc.) and the status of sources of funding for these projects; and an update on when the review of the Master Plan for the Halifax Common will take place involving public participation and consultation.

With the main points of her motion addressed in the staff presentation held earlier in the meeting, Councillor Watts asked the report focus on the economic analysis, and that the report be prepared for the January 11, 2010 Peninsula Community Council Meeting.

Councillor Uteck asked that the report outline the process for how the decision is made on what concerts are coming to Halifax, and who makes the decision.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Sloane that staff be requested to open a planning application to consult with the public, address any potential issues (e.g. separation distances, number of hens, prohibition of roosters) and, if appropriate, draft amendments to the Halifax Peninsula Land Use By-law to permit backyard laying hens.

Councillor Watts advised that she was following up on this matter from when she originally brought it to Community Council last February. At that time an information report had been submitted which did not recommend any changes to the By-law. Councillor Watts added that she went out to her community and consulted with the residents, and based on the feedback and in discussion with staff advised that she would like staff to explore the idea and see if it is feasible for the Peninsula.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. ADDED ITEMS:

12.1 Overnight Parking at Centennial Pool - Councillor Sloane

Councillor Sloane advised that she recently received complaints from residents who live along the Cogswell Street area. She explained that for years they have been able to use the Centennial Pool parking lot to park their cars overnight, particularly when the parking ban was in effect. However, the residents were advised that this is no longer free of charge and that, should they wish to continue to park overnight they will have to pay \$100 per month. Councillor Sloane noted that she was unaware this going to occur, and requested Community Council's support in requesting information from the Centennial Pool on this issue.

Following a brief discussion, ***it was agreed*** that the Chair would forward a letter to the Centennial Pool, with a copy to Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer, requesting information on when the policy on the overnight parking changed and the rationale behind the decision.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION:

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Clary Kempton, Dartmouth, addressed Community Council and advised that he was a member of the District 12 Planning Advisory Committee. He provided a presentation outlining the Committee's Terms of Reference and the work they have accomplished to date. Mr. Kempton also advised that the Committee was concerned that, with the approval by Regional Council of the Downtown Halifax Plan, the opportunity for public input has been dramatically reduced, and he reviewed various ways the Committee felt this could be addressed.

Mr. Alan Ruffman, Ferguson's Cove Road, addressed Community Council and provided comment in regard to the staff presentation held earlier this evening on the draft plan for the North Common. In his remarks, Mr. Ruffman clarified that the correct pronunciation is 'Common' and not 'Commons' as had been stated throughout the staff presentation. Mr. Ruffman expressed concern about the open house style of consultation proposed by staff, suggesting that it was a way of avoiding public consultation rather than gaining public feedback. Mr. Ruffman also pointed out that he had participated in the original 1994 Halifax Common Plan, and felt that it had been ignored ever since. He noted that, in particular, the idea of reclaiming Common land is where the Municipality has fallen down. In reference to Councillor Watt's motion for a staff report on the Halifax Common, Mr. Ruffman advised that he would like to see the report before the January 2010 open house.

Mr. Patrick Murphy, Halifax, addressed Community Council in regard to a recent newspaper article concerning Council members receiving back pay due to an accounting error and expressed concern that he was erroneously reported as receiving \$5000, when it was actually approximately \$3,500.

Mr. Peter Rogers, Halifax, addressed Community Council in regard to the staff presentation on the draft Plan for the North Common, and noted that he was pleased to see something happen concerning active transportation on the Common. He added that he liked the proposal for the on-street to off-street connectivity but that he did not see any significant improvement to make safe transitions between on-road and off-road paths. Mr. Rogers added that, as a cyclist, the right hand turning lanes on the roads surrounding the Common are great, but from a pedestrian's point of view they are very hard to cross and suggested that this needed to be looked at.

Mr. Tim Rearden advised that he was the President of Conrose Minor Baseball. Mr. Rearden expressed concern that the draft North Common Plan proposes to remove the Number 5 ball diamond as it will be used for a stage for outdoor concerts. Mr. Rearden indicated that staff have advised him they are working on a new location, however he has not heard where it will be and questioned if it will be on the Peninsula.

In response to Mr. Rearden, Councillor Sloane advised that she was aware that staff are looking into this matter, and that the Canada Games Diamond is one consideration.

A woman who identified herself as living in the North Park Street made reference to the staff presentation on the North Common and advised that she found the ideas presented this evening interesting. She asked the Councillors to pay particular attention to the hard surface in the draft Plan, noting that it is close to a set of homes in the North Park Street area.

Mr. Alex MacDonald, Halifax, noted that he was looking forward to the open house on the draft North Common Plan. As a resident of the area, he advised that he was pleased to hear that staff regard the Common not only as an HRM park, but also as a neighbourhood park. Mr. MacDonald added that he has been a homeowner in the area since 1997, and that the enjoyment of his property has been ruined with the outdoor concerts that have taken place on the Common. He advised that he hoped the use of the Common for concerts does not get in the way of the other great ideas in the Plan, and suggested that Regional Council should continue to look for another venue to hold these concerts.

15. **NEXT MEETING** - January 11, 2009

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant