

EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

November 25, 2013

- PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair  
Councillor Linda Mosher, Vice Chair  
Councillor Reg Rankin  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Councillor Matt Whitman  
Councillor Bill Karsten  
Councillor Steve Craig
- REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
- STAFF: Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations &  
External Affairs  
Mr. John Traves, Director Legal Services  
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 28, 2013**

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the minutes of October 28, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

In response to an inquiry by Councillor Rankin respecting delegation of authorities in regard to letters to other levels of government from Community Councils, it was noted that this would be addressed during the governance review update (Item 8.1).

Added Item:

10.1 Councillor Mosher – Request for Staff Report re: Floats for Community Events

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Mayor Savage called for nomination of Vice Chair for the Executive Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Whitman, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that Councillor Mosher be nominated as Vice Chair.**

Mayor Savage called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker, that nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mayor Savage declared Councillor Mosher as Vice Chair of the Executive Standing Committee.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE**

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 Update – Governance Project

A copy of the presentation entitled: Governance Review Update: External Committees was submitted for the file.

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs noted administrative changes to the Governance Review: Project Plan; John Traves, Director of Legal Services is listed as the Administrative Sponsor, the correction of Josh *Bates* under Project Team and “draft” has been removed following the approval of the plan in September 2013. Mr. Bryant provided an update on how the project was progressing and sought guidance and direction on appointments of elected officials to external boards and committees. During the presentation Mr. Bryant highlighted the three broad types of external committees identified during staff’s analysis: established by legislation/memorandum of understanding, HRM directed (Council motion) and request to HRM. Mr. Bryant sought further guidance/direction on the summary of questions listed in presentation on why appoint a Councillor to an external committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Karsten, seconded by Councillor Craig that the Executive Standing Committee direct staff to bring forward both policy and specific recommendations regarding appointment of elected officials to External Boards and Committees for consideration at the January meeting.**

The Standing Committee entered into discussion with the following points and suggestions being made:

- Include FCM and UNSM in the list of legislated boards and committees for review
- Review and identify all boards within HRM wherein their Terms of Reference/By-law states that an elected official/area Councillor be a member of board; Survey Regional Council to determine whether there is an need to have an elected official on each of those boards
- Differentiate between boards where HRM owns the facility (i.e. Canada Games Centre) as HRM has a vested interested in the operation of those boards
- HRM provides funding to the Business Improvement Districts and has a vested interest in working together with the BIDs
- Note was made of the importance of having Council representation on community boards as the representative are able to relay resident’s feedback directly to the board; it was felt that Councillors are more accountable to the public and may receive different feedback from residents than what residents would provide to HRM staff
- Determine if a Councillor were to speak on behalf of a resident in court on a Halifax Water Commission matter, whether there would be a conflict while the Councillor served on the Halifax Water Commission Board
- Identify whether requests for funding from external boards creates a conflict for Regional Council and/or a member of Council serving on the external board

- As Council's priorities change, there is a need to continuously evaluate Council's participation on boards and committees to determine the benefit of having an elected official on the board/committee.
- Identify whether it is in Council's collective interest to place elected officials on Planning Advisory Committees as Councillors would subsequently be involved with the recommendation when it comes to Community Council; as well identify the public interest in having an elected official serve on PACs
- Clarification was provided that the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission Act (Bill # 198) states that Halifax Regional Council *appoint* four members to the Halifax Bridge Commission
- Identify what external committees each Councillor currently sit on
- It was suggested a presentation be made to Regional Council on an elected official's duties and responsibilities while serving on external boards
- Include in the policy that stipends paid to a Councillor for work on external boards be directed to the Councillor Office General Budget as is the present practice.

Councillor Rankin provided an example of a matter that came to Halifax & West Community Council seeking consideration for road improvements; subsequently the Clerk's Office advised that as this was an intergovernmental matter and would require Regional Council approval. Councillor Rankin sought consideration on expanding Community Council's authority to include these types of matters.

In response to Councillor Rankin's suggestion, Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk added that, while there is certainly agreement that there is a role for Community Councils in regard to these local matters it is important that Regional Council clarify, by resolution or amendment to AO 48 – *Respecting the Creation of Community Councils* what authority they want to delegate to Community Councils in these matters.

The Committee requested staff include Councillor Rankin's suggestion within their review.

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **8.2 2014 meeting schedule**

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Karsten, that the Executive Standing Committee approve the 2014 Meeting Schedule as circulated.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **9. COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**

#### **10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Councillor Mosher – Request for Staff Report re: Floats for Community Events**

Councillor Mosher provided background on an issue that arose in relation to the 2013 Spryfield Santa Claus Parade where the float for HRM Councillors had been cancelled and no notification provided to the Councillors. She noted that alternate arrangements had been made for that evening, but with the demand for floats it was **MOVED by Councillor Mosher that the Executive Standing Committee direct staff to assess whether there is a need to purchase an additional float for HRM community events.**

Following a brief discussion, it was suggested that Councillor Mosher follow up with the Clerk's Office and Chief Administrative Officer to determine whether more support is needed related to floats for community events.

There being no seconder, the **MOTION WAS LOST.**

**11. IN CAMERA**

**MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Rankin that the Executive Standing Committee convene into In Camera at this time to address Items 11.1 and 11.2 MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Standing Committee convened into In Camera at this time.

**11.1 In Camera Minutes – October 28, 2013**

The October 28, 2013 minutes were approved during the In Camera session.

**10.2 Personnel Matter – Citizen Appointments to Boards and Committees of Council**

- **Community Monitoring Committee**

This matter was addressed during the In Camera session.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 16, 2013 (if required)**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Cathy Mellett  
Municipal Clerk