



**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 22, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair
Councillor Bill Karsten
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Steve Craig
Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. John Traves, Director of Legal Services
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Smith, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Executive Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/csac/ESC150622Agenda-HRM.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m., and adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 25, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the minutes of May 25, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 12.1 Severance for Elected Officials

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mosher

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two thirds majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 2014 Citizen Survey

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated May 12, 2015
- A staff presentation dated June 11, 2015

Mr. Michael Pappas, Planning and Performance Coordinator provided a presentation outlining the results of the 2014 Citizen Survey and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

In response to questions regarding demographic information, Mr. Pappas noted that the survey was fairly proportional in terms of the balance between urban, suburban and rural respondents, and all age groups were well represented. He indicated that there was not a sufficient volume of responses to analyze the results by district. He noted that demographic tables were available at <http://halifax.ca/citizensurvey/>. Mr. Pappas noted that for the first time an opportunity had been provided for residents to self-select to complete an on-line survey, in addition to the statistically verifiable randomly selected survey.

Several Councillors noted that the results for “Top of Mind Issues” could be skewed, as some issues are of greater or lesser importance to residents depending on the timing of the survey. Mr. Pappas responded that the survey is conducted during the same time of the year for comparative consistency.

Responding to a question of how the survey questions are developed, Mr. Pappas indicated that staff carry forward many of the same questions from previous surveys for comparative purposes; input is solicited from business units regarding what information would be useful for policy development; and questions are framed as scientifically as possible to prevent biased responses. He noted that Councillors may submit questions directly for consideration in future surveys.

Mayor Savage thanked Mr. Pappas for his presentation.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE
6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE
7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE
8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS
- 8.1 Correspondence

Councillor Mosher provided handouts regarding item 9.1.1 that were distributed to all Committee members. The Clerk's Office did not receive any further correspondence.

- 8.2 Petitions – NONE
- 8.3 Presentation – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Establishment of a Multicultural Advisory Committee

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 8, 2015
- A handout provided by Councillor Mosher entitled "Attracting Newcomers & Promoting Multiculturalism" dated November 2014
- A handout provided by Councillor Mosher entitled "Best Practices for Multiculturalism and Municipalities"

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council not pursue a Multicultural Advisory Committee at this time.

Councillor Mosher proposed a deferral for six months noting that although a Multicultural Advisory Committee is not recommended at this time, the Executive Standing Committee would benefit from insight from the newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Office before making a final decision.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Watts

THAT this matter be deferred for 6 months until the Diversity and Inclusion Office is established and can bring forward best practices and recommendations.

Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Managing Director of Government Relations and External Affairs responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. She advised that a six month deferral would provide staff with adequate time to complete foundational work of the Diversity and Inclusion Office and develop a plan going forward.

A brief discussion ensued with members of the Committee encouraging staff to focus on fostering social inclusiveness and diversity as outlined by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 MEMBERS - NONE

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. IN CAMERA - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Severance for Elected Officials

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Karsten

THAT the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report on severance for elected officials to come back to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee requested that staff examine severance packages provided to elected officials in other parts of Canada and options for consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, July 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

The Mayor advised that the date of the next meeting may be adjusted to align with Regional Council's summer meeting schedule.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Cathy J. Mellett
Municipal Clerk