

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 10, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Gloria McCluskey

REGRETS: Councillor Darren Fisher

STAFF: Mr. Michael Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 13, 2013, July 22, 2013, and August 8, 2013.

Councillor Watts referred to the July 22, 2013 minutes, specifically, the presentation given by the Halifax International Airport Authority and advised that she did not receive any information on the Community Consultative Committee which she had requested. The Chair asked staff to follow up on the request.

MOVED by Councilor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes of June 13, 2013, July 22, 2013, and August 8, 2013 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Status Update from the Community Design Advisory Committee

Deletion:

- 8.1 Special Events Strategy and Policy Update

Councillor Nicoll advised that she was recommending this be deleted from the agenda. She indicated that she spoke with staff and received an update that was satisfactory and she did not require anything further at this time.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS: None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentation

5.3.1 Irving Shipyard Project – Update

Mr. Tim Brownlow, representing Irving Shipbuilding, provided a presentation to the Committee updating on the progress with regard to Irving being selected to negotiate the right to build the new combat fleet for the Royal Canadian Navy. He began his remarks by providing background information on Irving Shipbuilding and the current projects the company is working on, and the status of the current contracts associated with the Federal procurement contract for new combat fleet ships

Mr. Brownlow advised that their Halifax Shipyard Modernization Program is a 2-year engineering and construction investment to prepare the company's facilities to build Canada's future combatant ships. Site preparation and preliminary construction is well underway, with major demolition and construction to begin soon. He added that the new parking garage at the south end of the yard will accommodate approximately 520 cars and is expected to be completed in January 2014. He also noted that Irving encourages its employees to partake in alternative transport like carpooling and the Smartrip program. Mr. Brownlow explained the various ways in which they keep the public informed of the work ongoing at the Shipyard associated with the combat fleet project, such as an updated phone message line and mail drops.

Mr. Brownlow responded to questions.

In response to a question by Councillor Outhit he advised that the number of employees will peak in 2020, and in 2022 it will start to decrease.

In response to questions by Councillor Watts he clarified the following points:

- There are 520 parking spaces which is down from upwards of 1200, with the new buildings taking up some of the space; they will lease some parking spots from the Port Authority
- Once construction is finished, they will access their parking needs and look into various options.
- The current phase of construction will continue to mid-2015, with the bigger part of the construction in 2014 with demolition work and building construction; once the actual shipbuilding work starts the yard will be quieter because this work is done inside.
- Their website is kept up-to-date and he encouraged anyone wanting information on the project to view the webpage.
- Their current focus is on the construction phase and they are doing some hiring for this; when it comes to hiring for the shipbuilding, they will be holding local job fairs in addition to accessing the resumes they currently have on file.
- He does not have any environmental or health concerns with their work—Irving is very committed to protecting the environment and they operate in full compliance with applicable legislation.

Councillor McCluskey noted that the noise emanating from the shipyard travels across the water and she questioned if there were any plans to notify residents on the Dartmouth side of the harbour in this regard.

Mr. Brownlow indicated that this was something he hadn't considered but would take it under advisement.

In response to questions by Councillor Mason, Mr. Brownlow advised that there will be a laneway between the retaining wall and buildings.

Councillor Watts noted that there is a lot of interest in looking at an active transportation connection in the area and she suggested that consideration be given to the idea and that a safe active transportation route would serve the employees of Department of Nation Defense as well as Irving.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brownlow for his presentation.

6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL / OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES: None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Strategic Urban Partnership – Request for Funding

A staff report dated September 10, 2013 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council:

- 1. Engage the Greater Halifax Partnership to be the entity through which the Strategic Urban Partnership will be administered;**
- 2. In accordance with HRM's Sole Source Policy (Administrative Order 35, Section 8(11) sub-section (k) (provided as Attachment E), award a Sole Source Contract to the Greater Halifax Partnership as the entity through which the Strategic Urban partnership will be administered;**
- 3. Grant authority to HRM's CAO to cost share in the Strategic Urban Partnership's funding requirements in the amount of \$55,000 from Project No. CDG01283 – Regional Plan 5 year review, to Greater Halifax Partnership as the entity through which the Strategic Urban Partnership will be administered, and up to an additional \$25,000 from Project No. CDG01283 – Regional Plan 5 year review conditional on the SUP receiving matching funding for this portion of HRM's contribution from other partners, not including GHP; and**

4. Endorse the attached draft Agree-Upon Description of Outcomes between HRM and the SUP.

Councillor Outhit advised that he was in complete support of the Strategic Urban Partnership (SUP) but questioned why this could not be done through the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP). He noted that the GHP would have the offices and resources already established and would, therefore, not require additional money.

In response Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Senior Analyst, Economic Policy and Development advised the Strategic Urban Partnership is not a legal entity; and that GHP is the Authority. In response to a further question by Councillor Outhit, Ms. MacDonald advised that of the 70 or 80 organizations that belong to SUP, approximately 12 contribute money.

Councillor Outhit expressed frustration that only about a dozen members of the SUP contribute money but they want HRM to increase its contribution when their mandate is the same as GHP.

Ms. MacDonald advised that SUP has a dedicated focus on the Urban Core, unlike like the focus that GHP takes.

Councillor Mason noted that Regional Council approved of the SUP and that the reason it is not in-house is to keep it arms-length from government, and to be a non-political body.

Councillor Watts advised that she is concerned with the lobbying position that SUP has taken on issues, for example HRM's Charter Amendments. She added that she does not feel this is a role for the SUP, pointing out that as an arms-length group it should not lobby and take such a position.

In response Mr. Labrecque advised that he would take her comment into consideration

Councillor McCluskey concurred with Councillor Watts comment that it is Council's role to advocate for Charter amendments, not the role of the SUP. She indicated that she would like to see a report card on the group to see what they have done.

Noting the concerns expressed, the Chair advised that if there are concerns of governance, the Committee has the option of deferring the report to get more information on governance.

Councillor Outhit noted that although SUP was an advocacy group, it was taking money and criticizing the people who were supporting it and, in this regard he questioned how the group could be objective. He noted that only 12 out of 70 or 80 groups feel it is worthwhile to put money into it, and he suggested that the HRM needs to decide

whether it wants to contribute and the group needs to determine how to get more members to provide funds, so that it can stand on its own.

Councillor Mason noted that Regional Council approved of the SUP and the motion is simply asking them to do what Council asked. He also noted that there is a sunset clause where it ends in 2016.

Councillor McCluskey indicated that she would move to defer this matter until the Committee received more information on what the SUP has accomplished.

There was no seconder for the deferral and the motion was lost.

Councillor Outhit advised that he would not support the deferral but that he felt this is the last year Regional Council should provide funds to the group.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

8.1 Special Events Strategy and Policy Update (Councillor Nicoll)

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the order of business.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Status Update from the Community Design Advisory Committee

A report date October 9, 2013 was submitted from the Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request staff, through the CAO, to design (in consultation with the Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee) and engage in a process with CDAC to identify the Committee's remaining areas of concern in each of the four regional plan themes identified in the July 2011 staff report – sustainable solutions, enhancing the regional centre, improved suburban and rural design, land and transit/active transportation – and work to resolve these issues through further revision to the draft plan and/or alternative policy for consideration by Council that, if possible addresses those issues and report back to Community Planning and Economic Development on or before November 28, 2013.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the motion be amended to read that the report will go to Committee of the Whole and not the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request staff, through the CAO, to design (in consultation with the Chair of the Community Design Advisory Committee) and engage in a process with CDAC to identify the Committee's remaining areas of concern in each of the four regional plan themes identified in the July 2011 staff report – sustainable solutions, enhancing the regional centre, improved suburban and rural design, land and transit/active transportation – and work to resolve these issues through further revision to the draft plan and/or alternative policy for consideration by Council that, if possible addresses those issues and report back to Committee of the Whole on or before November 28, 2013.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 14, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant