



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 13, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Gloria McCluskey

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Michael Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen MacDonald, Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, 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 Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/index.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. and adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 9, 2014

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the minutes of October 9, 2014 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletion:

14. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Addition:

12.1 Information Report - Beazley Sports Complex

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - None

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 World Energies Cities Partnership – Nancy Phillips, Director, Investment and Trade, Greater Halifax Partnership

Ms. Nancy Phillips, Director, Investment and Trade, Greater Halifax Partnership addressed the Committee and provided a presentation in regard to the work of the World Energy Cities Partnership and, specifically, recent work carried out in regard to Aberdeen Scotland and Norfolk Virginia.

She advised that the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP) was created in 1993 and Halifax joined in 2002, and in 2003 Halifax hosted a meeting of the World Energy Cities Partnership. The membership includes 22 world energy producing cities with Kuala Lumpur being the most recent addition. Ms. Phillips added that the WECP is committed to holding two meetings a year, one of which is held in Houston and the other, which is the Annual General Meeting, is held in a member city. In between these two meetings, there are three active subcommittees, i.e. business development, education, and communications. She noted that in the area of communications they have committed to increase WECP's presence via social media this year.

Through the WECP, she explained that the Greater Halifax Partnership has been able to connect the Provincial Department of Energy to representatives in Denmark to study best practices and business development opportunities in the area of wind energy and they have also been able to facilitate a connection between the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board and Perth Australia. Ms. Phillips advised that in September of 2013 a three-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Aberdeen, Scotland, and this past June, representatives from Aberdeen came to Halifax on a business mission, and two of the companies have taken memberships in the OTANS. She added that, last week, she and the Mayor were with a group that travelled to Norfolk, Virginia where their focus was on meetings with Nato, the Navy, the Mayor of Norfolk and City officials, and meeting individuals involved in the oceans economy. Ms. Phillips advised that they have invited the Mayor of Norfolk, and General Palomeros, who leads the Allied Command at NATO, and a business delegation to visit Halifax next September. In concluding her remarks, she noted that other relationships they are currently exploring are with Kiel Germany and Nashville, Tennessee.

Ms. Phillips responded to questions.

In response to a question from Councillor Watts concerning whether renewable energy is a focus of the World Energy Cities Partnership, Ms. Phillips explained that when the Partnership was originally formed the focus was on oil and gas, but it has grown and renewables have been an important part of the organization. She noted that there are cities involved that do not have oil and gas, but are focussed on wind energy.

Councillor McCluskey pointed out that in Nova Scotia, generally speaking, wind turbines are not looked at favourably, and she questioned how the WECP views wind turbines. Ms. Phillips responded that the European economy embraces wind turbine technology and the people understand the value that it brings. She emphasized the importance of working with cities like Copenhagen who have a lot of wind turbines to share their best practices.

In response to question from Councillor Mason, Ms. Phillips advised that in her view they have good resources and support, and performance is measured in connecting the area's businesses through relationship building and by capturing data.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Amendments to Terms of Reference – Community Design Advisory Committee

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 4, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council amend the Terms of Reference to the Community Design Advisory Committee as shown in Attachment A of the November 4, 2014 staff report.

Councillor Nicoll referred to page 2 of the staff report, under the 'Discussion' section, and pointed out that the Membership section does not include the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee as appointing their Chair or designate to the Community Design Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner advised the Standing Committee that this was an oversight and that the proposed amended Terms of Reference would be revised accordingly should Council approve the recommendation.

Councillor Watts noted that during the CDAC meeting a discussion was held on the idea of turning the Committee into a Planning Advisory Committee, and she asked if staff had given this any consideration.

In response, Mr. Bjerke advised that CDAC provides some of the same functions as an advisory committee but it is different in that it doesn't consider every planning aspect. He noted that some of the planning amendments will go to the Planning Advisory Committee, but that the CDAC is specific to the work of Centre Plan, which is a much broader scope than the District 7 and 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Economic Strategy & Greater Halifax Partnership Update – Q1 & Q2 of 2014-2015

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 29, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee receive this report and forward it to Regional Council for information.

Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Acting Managing Director, Government Relations & External Affairs responded to questions.

Councillor Mason noted that the report attachments are interesting and, in particular, the information regarding participation rates in the labour market. He advised that it indicates participation rates have fallen since 2009 but it doesn't provide key detail information that shows by how much and whether it's due to the aging population or people dropping out of the workforce.

Ms. MacDonald indicated that she would take this concern (i.e. more detailed information) under advisement for future reports.

Councillor Mason referred to Attachment 1, page 3, 'Halifax Housing Market' and also noted that this was interesting information, but that it requires more detail. He noted that he has previously expressed the view that, when provided statistical information such as this, he would like to see five-year trends versus comparing one year to the next. He asked Ms. MacDonald to pass on this information to the Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP). In addition, he advised that the information is presented in the National Context, and that he would like to see it also presented in the National Context, historically.

Councillor Watts stressed the importance of having complete and thorough information with respect to housing trends, noting that developers feel their target market is in building small units for the professional class and not family sized units. As a result, developers are continuing to focus on building smaller rental units. She advised that having the right information is important, in particular, as Council is turning its attention to the Centre Plan.

Councillor Mason referred to Attachment 4 of the report and advised that the information wasn't clear and he had questions with respect to the graphs. In response, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer suggested that it may be helpful if someone from the Greater Halifax Partnership attended an upcoming meeting to provide further explanation and respond to questions.

Councillor McCluskey advised that Greater Halifax Partnership should provide a report to the whole of Council. The Chair suggested she could discuss this with the Mayor.

In response to a question, Ms. MacDonald advised that the quarterly economic reports are posted on GHP's website. Councillor Watts suggested that links be provided to GHP's reports that are more user-friendly.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Destination Halifax Service Level Agreement – Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated October 30, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee forward the updates attached to the October 30, 2014 staff report on the Services Agreement with Destination Halifax to Regional Council for information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report, in the context of the Clairmont Report and the new Public Safety Office, regarding options for municipal funding and support for the business improvement district's Navigator Street Outreach Program for consideration in the 2015/16 budget process.

Councillor Mason advised that this program used to be more broadly funded but Federal funding has been decreasing. He indicated that he's discussed this matter with various directors from the Business Improvement Districts and with other Councillors, and everyone understands that the Navigator Street Outreach Program is a front line program that connects individuals with services that already exist. Councillor Mason added that the program is successful, the demand is increasing, and the BID's want to see the service extended.

MOTION PT AND PASSED.

10.2 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council request a staff report regarding the addition of heritage to Section 3.3 of the Committee's terms of reference and following sections read that the Committee has oversight over "arts, culture, recreation and heritage"

Councillor Mason pointed out that recently he became aware the Standing Committee's Terms of Reference do not state that it oversees 'heritage' even though the Heritage Advisory Committee reports through the Standing Committee, and that this oversight should be corrected in the Terms of Reference.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. IN CAMERA - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Information Report – Beazley Sports Complex

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- An information report dated October 15, 2015 regarding Beazley Sports Complex

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Information Report dated October 15, 2014 be forwarded to Regional Council for information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

14. ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

This item was deleted during the Approval of the Order of Business.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 11, 2014

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant