



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 17, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason, Chair
Councillor Stephen Adams, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Steve Craig
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Darren Fisher

OTHER COUNCILLORS: Councillor McCluskey
Councillor Hendsbee

STAFF: Mr. Eddie Robar, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, 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 the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/index.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 23, 2015

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts

THAT the minutes of July 23, 2015 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Deferral:

9.1.1 Information Report – Youth Engagement

The Committee agreed to defer this to the November meeting, when an additional information report is expected from staff. Staff was requested to provide the reports in colour to enable a better reading of charts and graphs included in the report. Also, the Committee requested a staff presentation on the reports.

The Committee agreed to deal with items 9.1.3 and 9.1.4 as the first order of business.

The Chair noted that a revised motion memo in regard to item 9.2.1 had been circulated on the Committee member's desks.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Adams

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Correspondence in regard to item 9.1.4 was distributed.

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentations - None

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Information Report – Youth Engagement (referred from July 23rd meeting)

This item had been deferred to the November meeting during the approval of the order of business.

9.1.2 Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Emblem Proposal

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 6.

9.1.3 Recreation Needs Assessment: Eastern Shore

The following was before the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 10, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

That the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

- 1. Decline the request from the Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and Halifax Regional School Board to fund a HRM enhancement or addition to the new Primary-12 Eastern School; and**
- 2. Engage with the Province Of Nova Scotia in the design discussions of the new Primary-12 Eastern Shore School in order to ensure that, as much as possible, the design of the new school is able to be used to support recreation uses.**

In response to a question, Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation, explained that the report's analysis concluded that the Recreation Needs Assessment did not determine that an enhancement or addition to the new school was required. It did determine that use of some of the space in the school would benefit the community. Mr. Anguish advised that staff will continue to work with the existing Facility Agreement Lease partners to explore opportunities for additional programming at the existing facilities in order to provide more efficient and effective service to the residents of the Eastern Shore

Councillor Adams noted that he and the other Committee members received an e-mail from Lloyd Hines, MLA, Guysborough Eastern Shore Tracadie with regard to this matter and he would forward it to the Legislative Assistant.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.4 Multi District Facility (MDF) Project Phase 2 – Governance – Supplementary Report

The following was before the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff supplementary report dated August 31, 2015.

Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation and Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Program Support Services provided a presentation with regard to the completion of Phase 2 of the project, which involved further consultation with the Multi District Facility (MDF's) boards and a focus on governance. The presentation noted the risks for HRM with the current governance model in place, the challenges with continued board governance approach to recreation service delivery and areas where improvements could be made through process integration; and the estimated savings and benefits to recreation service delivery in HRM of changing the overall governance of the MDF's. It was also noted that in the

consultation process with the Boards of the Multi District Facilities, the Boards recommended continued autonomous operation with additional HRM support in certain areas.

In concluding the presentation, Mr. Anguish highlighted the following key points:

- HRM requires a common recreation service delivery objectives/vision and an effective single point of accountability for the recreation system
- There is opportunity for significant savings through operational efficiencies
- A strong focus on expenditure control and shared services could eliminate the MDF network annual deficit
- Current break even direction within individual agreements does not facilitate delivery of Council's Healthy Community Priorities
- There are significant operating risks, especially occupational health and safety and facility maintenance, to which MDF's require assistance
- Current technology is not aligned and at risk of failure - integrated technology platform represents the best opportunity to improve recreation service delivery

The Chair advised that at the January 23, 2014 meeting, a motion had been moved and seconded, but was then deferred for further staff report, which the Committee received today. He advised that the motion was, therefore, back on the floor and would have to be dealt with prior to the Committee considering any other motions.

Councillor Watts indicated that she had an alternative motion to bring forward, and was requesting that the Committee defeat the motion on the floor.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend

That Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

1. **Develop a transition plan for Regional Council's consideration that transfers direct operational oversight of HRM's MDFs to Halifax Regional Council and addresses the following objectives:**
 - a. **Creates a regional advisory committee(s);**
 - b. **Establishes a regional funding model;**
 - c. **Initiates the absorption of the outstanding operating and capital debts of the facilities;**
 - d. **Restores appropriate and legally defined employer relationships for the operation of the facilities;**
 - e. **Authorizes HRM to audit the operation of its facilities;**
 - f. **Addresses the Auditor General's recommendations related to the administration functions of the Agencies, Boards and Commissions; and**
 - g. **Creates cost efficiencies for rate payers for the delivery of recreational service**
2. **Initiate the establishment of a Regional Advisory Committee(s) structure that would provide advice regarding the provision and programming of all HRM recreation infrastructure;**
3. **Maintain and support the current MDF Boards and direct that no new Boards be created for HRM Owned recreation facilities until the transition plan is considered by Regional Council; and**
4. **Return to Regional Council with the transition plan and advisory board governance options to complete Phase 2 of the MDF Project no later than the spring of 2016.**

Councillor Mason stepped down from the Chair in order that he could speak to this matter. Councillor Adams assumed the Chair.

Councillor Mason indicated that he supported the staff report and would vote against the motion on the floor. He questioned if staff had a financial projection of cost savings with Alternative 1 in the staff report. Mr. Anguish responded that staff did not have that information.

Councillor Mason assumed the Chair.

Councillor Adams advised that he would vote against the motion on the floor and indicated he supported Alternative 1 in the staff report. He added that, currently, the boards are doing the best they can with the tools they have, but that they need clarity around their roles, parameters, and responsibilities; and that there will be consistency if all the boards are working within the same framework.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend

That Regional Council direct staff to develop standard board governance model for the facilities and implement new agreements that achieve the following objectives:

- a. Establish a regional funding model;**
- b. Initiate the absorption of the outstanding operating and capital debts of the facilities;**
- c. Align annual budgets and business plans with the overall HRM budget process including requirement to meet budget targets and approval by Regional Council;**
- d. Provide for the provision of HRM delivered ICT technology and software including support and maintenance;**
- e. Restore appropriate and legally defined employer relationships for the operation of the facilities;**
- f. Support completion of a HRM safety review of all facility maintenance, operation and processes and subsequent agreement of resolution of all findings; and**
- g. Outline clear community access requirements and initiates implementation of consistent pricing and membership model to enable a “one-client” model across all facilities.**

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Watts

That the motion be amended to add the following to item ‘e’: “providing the option of HRM employees for facility management and program implementation”

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nicoll

That the motion be amended to add the following as item ‘h’: “Return to Regional Council the plan and advisory board governance options to complete Phase 2 of the MDF Project no later than the spring of 2016”.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTON WAS PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason stepped down from the Chair. Councillor Adams assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the motion be amended to request a staff report regarding possible amendment or removal of Alderney Landing from the MDF process and develop an appropriate approach reflecting its nature of an arts and entertainment facility.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND PASSED.

The motion, as amended, now reads as follows:

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council direct staff to develop standard board governance model for the facilities included in the MDF Project Phase 2 and implement new agreements that achieve the following objectives:

- a. **Establish a regional funding model;**
- b. **Initiate the absorption of the outstanding operating and capital debts of the facilities;**
- c. **Align annual budgets and business plans with the overall HRM budget process including requirement to meet budget targets and approval by Regional Council;**
- d. **Provide for the provision of HRM delivered ICT technology and software including support and maintenance;**
- e. **Restore appropriate and legally defined employer relationships for the operation of the facilities; this would include the option of HRM employees for facility management and program implementation;**
- f. **Support completion of a HRM safety review of all facility maintenance, operation and processes and subsequent agreement of resolution of all findings; and**
- g. **Outline clear community access requirements and initiates implementation of consistent pricing and membership model to enable a “one-client” model across all facilities.**
- h. **Return to Regional Council the plan and advisory Board governance options to complete Phase 2 of the MDF Project no later than the spring of 2016.**

And further, request a staff report regarding possible amendment or removal of Alderney Landing from the MDF process and develop an appropriate approach reflecting its nature of an arts and entertainment facility

THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Emblem Proposal

The following was before the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 20, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Adams

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the approach proposed in the July 20, 2015 staff report to develop and implement a Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary emblem.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Membership on the Economic Strategy Advisory Committee – Councillor Mason

The following was before the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

- A revised Councillor Request for Standing Committee’s Consideration form from Councillor Mason.
- A letter dated July 31, 2015 from Matt Hebb, Chair, Economic Strategy Advisory Committee, Halifax Partnership

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council approve the appointment of the Chair of CP & ED to sit on the Economic Strategy Advisory Committee

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

- 10. MOTIONS: NONE**
- 11. IN CAMERA**
- 11.1 Minutes – July 23, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

That the minutes of July 23, 2015 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 12. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**
- 13. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE**
- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 15, 2015**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant