

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 10, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Blumenthal
Councillor Outhit
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Wile

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Sue Uteck, Vice Chair
Councillor Peter Lund

STAFF: 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

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Outhit that the minutes of February 9, 2012 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 5.3.1 Information Report dated April 19, 2012 – 2011/2012 Year End Service Level Agreement & Economic Strategy Status Update

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS

4.1 Wastewater Oversizing for Future Development of Sandy Lake Lands

A supplementary staff report dated March 23, 2012 was submitted.

This matter was originally discussed at the Committee's February 9, 2012 meeting when at that time the matter was deferred pending a report back from staff with information on whether an area rate could be levied to pay for a portion of the oversizing cost.

Mr. Paul Morgan, Planner addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the supplementary report. He advised that staff reviewed the request by the Committee, however, staff came to the same conclusion as in their original recommendation.

At 2:07 p.m. Councillor Wile entered the meeting.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Morgan, Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Financial Policy and Planning, and Mr. Jamie Hannam, Halifax Water responding to questions.

At this time, the Chair noted that there were those who were in attendance to provide presentations in regard other agenda items and she questioned the Committee members if they wished to cease discussion at this point, and come back to it after dealing with the other agenda item.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Wile that discussion on this item cease and the Committee return to it after dealing with the remaining agenda items. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations

5.3.1 GHP year End Status Update

An Information report dated April 19, 2012 entitled, *2011/2012 Year End Service Level Agreement & Economic Strategy Status Update* was circulated.

Mr. Paul Kent, President and CEO, and Mr. Fred Morley, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist provided a presentation to the Committee in regard to Greater Halifax Partnership's year end status update. In the presentation, it was noted that, based on GHP's research and consultation, the top five issues for which business hope for municipal leadership in 2012-13 are:

1. Respond to Halifax Shipyard and other major project opportunities.
2. Continue to be open to the business climate and look critically at tax and the regulatory environment that businesses operate under.
3. Work on client service as it relates to the time it takes to process permits and development agreements.
4. Public transportation.
5. Safety and security.

Mr. Kent and Mr. Morley responded to questions.

The meeting recessed at 3:19 p.m

The meeting reconvened at 3:26 p.m.

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

7. REPORTS

7.1 2012/13 Service Level Agreement with GHP

A staff report dated April 12, 2012 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee endorse and recommend to Regional Council the attached Collateral Agreement, to the 2011-2012 Service Level Agreement with the Greater Halifax Partnership, in an effort to specify key deliverables, measures and anticipated costs between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Collateral Agreement. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Outhit referred to the attachment to the report—pg. 7, Sec.2.02 *Role of the Partnership*, item 'c' in regard to maintaining a database of current economic information, and suggested that the Committee should get staff to provide an information report on this matter.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Fisher that staff provide an information report on the assessment of value and options of making HRM's data more publicly accessible as a means of promoting economic development. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.1 Wastewater Oversizing for Future Development of Sandy Lake Lands (Cont.'d)

The Committee returned to this item. Mr. Mike Lebreque, Deputy CAO joined the meeting.

Mr. Labrecque addressed the Committee to provide clarification with respect to staff's recommendation as contained in the staff reports submitted on this item. He pointed out that Regional Council controls the decision as to when the area in question will be captured in a serviceable boundary. Therefore, in looking at the issue of paying for the oversizing now and Council covering that; in time the land would be developed and serviceable boundary extended and charges then could be recovered through Halifax Water to pay for the site. Mr. Labrecque advised that this was the option and he added that he understood the Committee's concern was that this decision would bind a future Council to this decision. However, staff view this as spending a small amount of money now on the potential to expand the serviceable boundary versus not doing it now and ultimately, if a future Council wanted to bring the area into a serviceable boundary, you would then end up binding that Council with much more significant costs. Mr. Labrecque added that consideration was given to perhaps having the developer participating in the risk, however, the concern of staff was that it could set an unreal expectation on the part of the developer.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Labrecque responding to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council agree in principle to fund the oversizing of wastewater infrastructure

**through Bedford West to service the potential future development of Sandy Lake through this year's and future year's budgets and direct staff to provide Regional Council with details on how this will be accomplished in this year's budget.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Blumenthal wanted it noted for the record that he voted in opposition to the motion.

- 8. ADDED ITEMS:** None
- 9. IN CAMERA:** None
- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE** – June 14, 2012
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant