

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 15, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Sue Uteck
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Peter Lund
Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Wile that the minutes of August 11, 2011 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Streetscape Improvement Program – Councillor Uteck
- 8.2 Information Report – HRM as an “entertainment centre”; an update on HRM’s Event Strategy & Other Corporate Initiatives – Councillor Outhit

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: None

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Correspondence: None
- 5.2 Petitions: None
- 5.3 Presentations:
 - 5.3.1 Update on Business Improvement Districts

This item was deferred to later in the meeting. See page

6. REPORTS:

6.1 HRM Discretionary Funding to Business Improvement Districts: Proposed BID Contributions Policy

A staff report dated July 17, 2011 was submitted.

Mr. Scott Sheffield, Community Developer, Community Relations & Cultural Affairs addressed the Committee and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

- 1. **Recommend Regional Council adopt the HRM Business Improvement District Contributions Policy as detailed in Attachment 1 and the proposed amendments of the Audit & Finance Standing**

Committee as described in the Background section of the July 17, 2011 staff report;

- 2. Recommend to Regional Council implementation of the proposed HRM Business Improvement District Contributions Policy effective April 1, 2012; and**
- 3. Recommend that, to allow for greater transparency, the HRM Business Improvement District Contributions Program be identified as a separate line items under Fiscal Services in future HRM budgets.**

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

Councillor Uteck suggested that a 'one size fits all' policy does not work. She noted that the Quinpool Road BID was told that they cannot use the streetscaping funds for banners. She added that there are existing brackets where banners were previously erected, and that Quinpool Road BID should be allowed, under the streetscaping funding to use those brackets to put up banners. Councillor Uteck noted for the record, that HRM paid \$495,000 for a consultant's study for this area and now the BID only has \$300,000 to spend. She questioned what impact the policy would have on the BID and if they would be able to access money for Banners.

In response, Mr. Sheffield clarified that Councillor Uteck was making reference to two separate funds. He explained that the money she was referring to was earmarked by a particular business unit for urban core development, but that the Policy under consideration today is separate from.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern that the Quinpool Road BID has been told that under the Discretionary Policy they are not permitted to use the \$300,000 and if the funds are not spent by the end of the fiscal year, the BID will lose them.

Mr. Sheffield noted that there may have been reasons that staff in Streets and Right of Way Services would have refused the banners if they blocked site lines. From the point of view of expenditures of the funds, this Policy will open up the range of activities to spend the money.

Councillor Uteck indicated that, should this policy be approved, she would like the next phase to be a review of the Streetscaping Policy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 2011-2012 Discretionary Funding for Business Improvement Districts

A report dated July 14, 2011 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve the disbursement of Business Improvement District discretionary contributions as listed in Table 2 of the July 14, 2011 staff report.

Mr. Scott Sheffield, Community Developer, Community Relations & Cultural Affairs responded to questions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.3 Update on 'Capital Ideas' – Request for Report

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that staff provide a report updating the Committee on 'Capital Ideas'. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.3.1 Update on Business Improvement Districts

Mr. Scott Sheffield provided a status update on the Business Improvement Districts and responded to questions.

During the discussion several Councillors noted concerns with respect to the Sidewalk Café Policy, siting issues involving lack of enforcement of the standards for sidewalk patios, and a need for better coordination in this regard; the challenges that sidewalk patios present to visually impaired individuals and those in wheelchairs. In addition it was noted that some business owners want to be able to operate their sidewalk patios year round.

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

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Streetscape Improvement Program – Councillor Uteck

MOVED by Councillor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that staff provide a report which presents an overview of the Streetscaping Improvement Program and reviews the Program for any changes to be made. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Information Report – HRM as an “entertainment centre”; an update on HRM’s Event Strategy & Other Corporate Initiatives – Councillor Outhit

An information report dated June 28, 2011 was submitted.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Wile that the information report regarding HRM as an “entertainment centre”; an update on HRM’s Event Strategy & Other Corporate Initiatives be forwarded to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 13, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant