

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 7, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair

ABSENT: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations
Services & Strategy
Ms. Alva Robinson, BPIM Data Analyst

STAFF: Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician, GISS
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk Municipal Clerks Office
Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant, Municipal
Clerks Office
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. in the Councillors Boardroom, City Hall, with Councillor Tim Outhit in the Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 17, 2009

The Committee requested the following amendments:

- Page 3, in the last paragraph of item 4.1, the following wording should read: *She noted that six (6) meetings in total were held, one (1) in each Community Council District area, and one (1) additional meeting, which was held in the Cole Harbour area.*
- Page 4, in the first paragraph, “She noted” should be changed to “Ms. Mellett noted” to ensure that readers do not think it is Councillor McCluskey speaking on the matter.
- Page 4, second last paragraph, in regard to *effective decision making* the following words should be added to the sentence: *as opposed to representing local constituencies.*
- Page 4, last paragraph, *she noted that the Committee would not want people talking about governance issues* should read: *She noted that the Committee would be concerned that people would not talk about governance issues because they would likely be focussed on the boundary lines.*
- Page 5, on the motion, it should be noted *that the basis for the Committee requesting an additional meeting in District 1, for Phase 1, is due to the considerable spacial characteristics.* It was agreed that the addition would be put as a separate paragraph after the motion.
- Page 4, first paragraph, Councillor McCluskey had requested a tour *to get a sense of the size of each District.*

Mayor Kelly entered the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and assumed the Chair.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the minutes of December 17, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no changes to the Order of Business.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Review - schedule for public meetings phase 1

- A schedule for District Boundary Review - Phase 1 Consultation (February) meetings was before the Committee.
- A revised schedule of District Boundary Review meetings for February and March was circulated to the Committee.

Councillor Mosher requested clarification regarding the presentation video and noted that in 2003 she had requested a video of HRM. She had also suggested using it in conjunction with a lunch and learn for new Councillors, rather than taking them out and doing a tour of each District. Councillor Mosher asked whether housing types and physical characteristics of each District would be tied into the public consultations presentation video, and whether the Committee would have any input on those items. Ms. Mellett noted that those matters are larger in scope than the public consultations presentation video. However, she will keep these comments in mind.

Councillor Mosher expressed concern with holding a public consultation on February 1, 2010 in conjunction with the Chebucto Community Council meeting due to advertising time constraints. Ms. Mellett advised that staff recognize that there is a need for more time for appropriate advertising. She noted that staff has been in contact with Corporate Communications in this regard.

It was suggested having the public consultations start the last week of February with Western Regional Community Council to give more time for the Committee to provide their comments. Councillor Blumenthal advised that he would not be able to attend the Peninsula Community Council meeting of March 8, 2010 due to a previous engagement. He requested the meeting be reschedule to March 3, 2010 to accommodate his attendance. Councillor Mosher requested that the Chebucto Community Council change its venue, possibly to the Halifax West High School, to accommodate an increase of attendees.

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the District Boundary Review Committee approve the following Public Consultation Meeting Dates for Phase 1 - Governance:

Western Region Community Council - February 22, 2010

Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council - February 24, 2010 (Sheet Harbour)

North West Community Council - February 25, 2010

Chebucto Community Council - March 1, 2010

Peninsula Community Council - March 3, 2010 - *pending approval from the Community Council of the proposed date change*

Harbour East Community Council - March 4, 2010

2nd Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council - March 10, 2010

The Committee agreed to have the week of March 22nd to March 26th as a flex week, should any of the meetings need to be rescheduled. Mayor Kelly reminded the Committee that all members of the Committee should attend the public consultation meetings.

Staff advised that an information report will be before Council on January 26, 2010 and an overview of the presentation will be before Council on February 16, 2010.

Concerns were raised regarding members of the Committee addressing the public in regard to the size of Council. It was suggested that Committee members refrain from voicing their opinions to the media and public in this regard. Mayor Kelly indicated that a motion is not required and would be redundant because the Committee had previously agreed to remain neutral and keep an open mind during the District Boundary Review process. Linda Grant, of the Municipal Clerks Office, will research any media articles regarding District Boundary Review.

Councillor Mosher suggested having information available at the public consultations defining Community Councils.

Concerns were raised by the Committee that without scenarios being presented the public would not be fully informed regarding phase 1 of the public consultation. The following suggestions were made:

- Citizens will want to know how each of the scenarios provided (15, 18, status quo and greater) relate to their Community Council size and representation by population.
- Background information and displays should be available to the public before each meeting starts.

An additional scenario was requested, which was to divide the maps in to three geographic communities of interest: rural, urban and sub-urban.

Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician, GISS, indicated that the challenges of drawing lines on maps would be that people would put focus on the lines and not want to discuss governance. He suggested methods that could be used to represent the concepts without citizens locating their specific neighbourhoods on the maps. Phase 1 must focus on governance and specific boundaries will follow during phase 2.

Ms. Knight advised that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) has directed that public consultation is to be conducted in two separate stages, Phase 1 -

governance, Phase 2 - boundary lines. Ms. Knight noted that there should not be a problem with adding broad lines and asking for citizen input.

Staff will provide the Committee with a concept of what the presentation will look like, along with a list of potential questions for citizens input at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed that staff will shade in areas of the maps, which will eliminate the need for lines and take the focus off individual communities and neighbourhoods.

In regard to the presentation process, the following was noted/agreed:

- His Worship, Mayor Kelly, will Chair the presentations.
- The order will be: introduction, presentation, clarification (if required) and question and answer period.
- The voice on the presentation video will be independent.
- The Presentation will be approximately 20 minutes in length.
- Community Councils will commence at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation as the first item of business on the agenda, after the approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes.
- Harbour East Community Council will commence its meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the presentation to commence at 6:30 p.m.

Staff noted that they are looking into advertising in each of the community's news letters and will provide the Committee with a list of suggested advertising areas. Staff are also looking into advertising with local radio stations and newspapers. Committee members can email staff should they have a preferred method and location in which to advertise in their community.

Councillor Mosher exited the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Councillor Support Staff Survey

- A memorandum from Cathie Barrington, Manager Councillors Support, dated December 3, 2009 regarding Council Support, along with a Council Constituency Coordinator Job Description was before the Committee.

It was noted that the surveys will be given to Legal Services and will not be directly provided to the NSUARB. Ms. Knight noted that the surveys are confidential. Councillor's names are on the survey so that Legal Services knows which Councillors have submitted the survey and which surveys are outstanding. Comments made on the survey will be generalized. Any comments that can not be generalized will not be added to Legal Services information report. Ms. Knight expressed the importance of Councillors being honest when filling out their survey and suggested Committee members encourage other Councillors to complete the survey.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Final report from Environics and date for presentation

- A memorandum from Cathy Mellett, Acting Clerk/Manager, Office of the Municipal Clerk, dated January 5, 2010 regarding the Final Report - HRM population and population description to July 2009 and projections to December 2010, along with a report from Environics dated December 16, 2009 was before the Committee.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Mayor Kelly will be out of town during the next meeting and requested the meeting be rescheduled to **January 28, 2010**, to which the Committee agreed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant