

**DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 28, 2010

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Reg Rankin
Mr. Wayne Anstey, DCAO, Operations

ABSENT: Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair (Regrets)
Councillor Gloria McCluskey (Regrets)

STAFF: Ms. Cathy Mellett, Acting Manager/Clerk
Ms. Sara Knight, Solicitor
Mr. Paul Morgan, Sr. Planner
Mr. Ken Lenihan, GIS Technician
Ms. Alva Robinson, Data Analyst
Ms. Linda Grant, Administrative Clerk Assistant
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Mosher that the minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting of the District Boundary Advisory Committee, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 8.1 Travel Logistics for Public Meeting
- 8.2 Information Item 1 - HRM's District Boundary Review - Advertisement

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Review Presentation

Ms. Mellett advised that she had been working with the designer to develop the presentation to be used during the upcoming public meetings. She noted that significant time and work has been put into the draft presentation based on the Committee's direction. Every effort has been made to pare down the information to ensure that it reflects the Committee's vision. Ms. Mellett indicated that the presentation would be loaded to the web once the public meetings began. She confirmed that the survey questions had been vetted by an independent body.

Noting that the presentation is in the first stages of production (no voice over, not all graphics in place), Ms. Mellet delivered the presentation reading from the proposed script.

Following the introductory section, the Chair requested that members provide input. Committee members suggested the following additions, deletions, changes:

- when referring to investment in community facilities the presentation should include the Captain William Spry Centre (\$1 million investment)

- a picture of the committee members should be included with a brief introduction of each member
- refer to HRM as a 'well' managed rather than 'best' managed
- ensure that the Greater Halifax Partnership is mentioned when referring to economic growth
- the inclusion of Halifax as a hub city in the Conference Board of Canada Hub City report should also be mentioned
- when referring to benefits of amalgamation, the fact that HRM is included in the Big City Mayors Caucus is a direct benefit of amalgamation (membership based on population)
- mention should be made of the 'in process' developments within HRM equalling almost one billion dollars of investment in downtown Halifax

Councillor Rankin expressed concern over the promotional nature of the introduction. He indicated that some residents would get the impression that HRM is in very good shape and change is not necessary.

The Chair noted the Committee had agreed that the presentation would include a promotional component.

- slides should contain pictures of urban, suburban and rural HRM
- the presentation should brand HRM as Greater Halifax

Ms. Mellett completed the presentation with Councillors providing the follow input:

- a picture of the Community Council members should be included with the map showing the Community Council boundaries
- a definition/explanation of governance as many residents may not know exactly what it means (i.e. means number of Councillors, number of Community Councils, etc.)
- the presentation should include the population growth since amalgamation
- a rewrite is required on the slide dealing with population per District/Councillor
- some slides should have picture in the background to increase interest
- presentation should note that Community Councils deal with issues of a local nature and do not have the authority to make expenditures
- references to Council should always be Regional Council
- identify the District Boundary Review Advisory Committee as an HRM Committee
- suggestion that we can divide Districts anyway we wish is not exactly true (i.e. subject to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling re community of interest, etc.)
- ensure that each Community Council is a different color
- questions should be restated at the end presentation on one slide

Mr. Anstey joined the meeting at 12:45 p.m..

A brief discussion relating to the format/rules of engagement for the public meetings ensued with note being made that this is not an opportunity for members of Council to debate the proposals. This is an opportunity to receive input from residents. No elected officials (Federal, Provincial or School Board) should make a representation based upon his/her elected office. Providing input as an individual citizen would be appropriate for any of these individual.

In keeping with Regional Council's rules for public hearings, an individual will be permitted five minutes to speak. Meetings will be kept to a two hour timeline. If there is an opportunity (no other speakers), an individual may speak a second time.

The Committee agreed that members of the Committee would not enter into debate. Staff and Council would respond to questions. Ms.Knight noted that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) had been very disappointed with the confrontational approach taken at the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's public meetings. She went on to indicate that there should be no debate with the public nor among Councillors.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mosher that staff undertake a Lunch and Learn with Regional Council to review the presentation prior to the first public meeting and further take this opportunity to review with Regional Council the rules of engagement for the public meetings.

February 16, 2010 was suggested as a possible date for this meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In the interest of receiving broad input, Ms. Mellet noted that the presentation would be available online once it has been made public. She went on to advise that there is an opportunity to have an open ended survey using the questions contained within the presentation at a cost of approximately \$6,000.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Mosher that staff be directed to expend approximately \$6,000 to deliver a web survey utilizing the questions contained in the presentation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair indicated that some latitude will have to be afforded to residents when they speak about boundaries. It would be unfortunate to lose this input due to inflexibility.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Final Report of Environics and Date for Presentation

- A memo dated January 5, 2010 re Final Report - HRM Population and Population Distribution to July 2009 and Projections to 2012 was before the Committee.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Mellett advised that a presentation on this report would be approximately 15-20 minutes.

The Committee agreed to hear the presentation in March.

Councillor Rankin asked if staff saw any value in the public receiving this information during this round of public meetings.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS - None

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Travel Logistics for Public Meeting

Staff will arrange for a van to transport Committee members and staff to the public meetings in outlying areas, particularly Sheet Harbour and Lawrencetown.

8.2 Information Item 1 - HRM's District Boundary Review - Advertisement

The ad should emphasize that these public meetings are not about individual District boundaries. Consideration of District boundaries will be handled in Phase 2.

8.3 Change of Committee Name

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal that the name of the Committee be changed to the Governance and Boundary Review Committee to better reflect the mandate of the Committee. MOTION PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - February 4, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.