

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 16, 2012

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair
Mr. Eric Burchill
Mr. Geoff LeBoutillier
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed
Councillor Sue Uteck
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Jim Smith
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Peter Lund

REGRETS: Ms. Joanne Macrae
Mr. Peter Moorhouse
Mr. William Book

STAFF: Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. in Halifax Hall

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Lund that the minutes of May 2, 2012 be approved.

The Chair referred to page 7 of the minutes and noted that under the agenda item, *Forward Agenda*, she had recommended that this be an item for a June meeting. She added that she would like the minutes amended to reflect that this would be on a *June* agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes be amended as noted by the Chair. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called for the question on the amended minutes.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

The Chair advised that Mr. Fillmore would provide an update on 'Legislative Amendments'.

The Chair advised that she would like the Committee to have a discussion on how to proceed with presentations.

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed entered the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

The Chair requested that under item 6.2 Centre Plan, that an additional bullet item entitled, 'Preliminary Content' be inserted.

MOVED by Mr. LeBoutillier, seconded by Councillor Sloane the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS:
4.1 Metrics Analysis**

Mr. Fillmore advised that the Metric Analysis was an ongoing work in progress, and will grow out of research that staff is working on, and he had no update to report at this time.

Mr. Burchill entered the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

4.2 Teambuilding

The Chair advised that she and the Vice Chair met to discuss holding a teambuilding session, and were suggesting that three hours be set aside during one day in June.

A discussion ensued and the Chair advised that she would follow-up with the Committee via e-mail.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was submitted from the following individuals:

Claire McIlveen
Doug Gordon
Nancy Campbell
Peggy Cameron
Lisa O'Neill
Andrea Arbic
Sharon MacDonald
Irene Clark

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations:

The Chair indicated that she would like the Committee to have a discussion and come to consensus on how on to deal with presentation requests.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Fillmore noted that the deadline for submissions for Phase 1 of the Centre Plan is Friday, therefore, he suggested the Committee decline any presentations on Phase 1. He noted that written comments could still be provided as they will be included as feedback in the overall Centre Plan review.

During discussion, Councillor Sloane suggested that the Committee follow the same procedure for hearing presentations as the Urban Design Task Force followed. She explained that presenters were requested to submit their request in writing to the Chair; the Chair would bring it forward for the Committee's consideration. If the Committee agreed to hear the presentation, the presenter would be notified and invited to the next regular meeting to give their presentation.

Subsequently, it was **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Mr. Morley that requests for presentations are to be submitted to the Chair in writing, and the**

Chair will bring forward to the Committee for consideration. If approved, the presenter will be notified that they can attend the following Committee meeting and they will have five minutes to present, followed by a Question & Answer session by the Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. REPORTS:

6.1 RP+5

- Overview of Public Input/Discussion
- Update – Quantification Study
- Summary of Public Meeting Evaluations
- Next Steps

Mr. Fillmore provided a presentation on the Phase II process and feedback received from the public information meetings. He noted that one concern raised was that HRM is selling land in the industrial parks for office space when there are vacancies in the downtown core. He noted that an overriding question in this process is whether they carry through with the growth centres that were identified in the Regional Plan that were destined for central service, adding that it could be cost prohibitive.

A discussion ensued.

Councillor Lund advised that at some point in the future, it is his intention to put the '103 Connector' on the agenda for discussion in regard to zoning. Councillor Lund also noted that the issue of affordable housing in rural areas and, in particular, for seniors is something that the Committee should consider as an item for a future discussion.

Councillor Sloane also suggested that the Committee should consider the capital cost contribution report and how it interweaves with the Regional Plan if there are to be growth centres.

Councillor Sloane advised that it would be beneficial for the Committee to have a list of the outstanding developments in HRM, i.e. current and future developments and to what year the future developments are projected. She noted that with this information the Committee would be able to get an idea of the direction in which development is moving.

Mr. Fillmore advised that with regard to the quantification study, the final report will be ready by July 13, 2012.

Mr. Fillmore advised that Phase III public meetings will occur in September and staff will go to the seven venues it visited in April.

With regard to the next steps, Mr. Fillmore explained that there will be an interim staff report submitted to this Committee and the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee which will include the feedback that has been

received and will be presented under the five themes. He noted that the quality and volume of feedback is extensive and, as it develops, it will be uploaded to the website.

Councillor Uteck requested that staff advise the Committee members and Councillors of the September dates for public engagement well in advance.

Mr. Fillmore advised that the overall final report will be the recommended amendments to the Regional Plan and the anticipated date to submit this report to Council is November 2012 with a public hearing date for January of 2013.

6.2 Centre Plan

- Preliminary Findings: Phase 1 Meeting
- Summary of Public Meeting Evaluations
- Next Steps
- Preliminary Content

Mr. Fillmore provided a brief review of the preliminary findings from the Phase 1 meetings and the summary of the public meeting evaluations. He indicated that he did not have extra copies of his presentation with him, however he would provide copies at a later date.

Councillor Smith emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Centre Plan is plan made by the Community and not by the Committee. In this regard, he advised that residents have told him that they did not receive any information about the public meeting pertaining to their area. Councillor Smith requested that staff forward him a copy of the mail-out list that was used for his area.

Mr. Fillmore indicated that he would provide this information to Councillor Smith. He also pointed out that every property owner in the boundary area and within 250 feet of the boundary received a flyer of the public meetings in the mail.

Councillor Watts advised that she was finding that issues were now coming forward and she was hearing thoughtful comments. She added that the Committee has not yet had a discussion on what it will take to bring families back to the downtown and the Peninsula, and that the focus appears to be on height and massing. She suggested that families want to live in houses, therefore, they will continue to move to the suburbs, and they are not interested in living in a high-rise tower.

Councillor Nicoll pointed out that the Centre Plan is about densification and bringing families into the downtown area, but that schools are an important aspect in the decisions of where families want to locate. She suggested that schools need to be a consideration and questioned if the future plans Halifax Regional School Board has been considered in the process.

The Chair suggested that understanding densification needs to be one of the Committee's themes. She indicated that affordable housing and densification are topics

that go together and that this should be a topic of discussion at a future meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Morley advised that the challenge he sees is that the community needs to be fiscally sustainable and, currently, it is on a course where that is not the case. Therefore, it was important to move quickly on this process otherwise there will be problems down the road. Mr. Morley also noted that there were interesting comments coming from the public meetings, but it was important to be cognizant that those meetings are not representative of the population, and have the potential to be dominated by those with special interests. He added that the decision making has to be done by those who are gathering the data and the elected officials.

Mr. Fillmore advised that staff will be putting the new maps, information, and 3-D models on the website while the matter is in a period of deliberation. He added that even though the report going ahead will not have the benefit of another round of meetings, there will be a lot of opportunity to influence the content on the Phase 1. Mr. Fillmore noted that the only closed door at this point is in regard to what is contained in the report.

Councillor Watts asked Mr. Fillmore to provide her with the date of when he expects the maps for the 11 corridors will be up on the website and to provide information on how people can provide their comments so that the public hearing is not the only opportunity for public input.

The Chair noted that this is beneficial information and she requested that Mr. Fillmore make this information available to all Committee members.

Councillor Lund advised that on a future agenda he would like the Committee to have a discussion about performance standards.

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Legislative Amendments

Mr. Fillmore circulated the Legislative Amendment Requests that were submitted by HRM to the Spring 2012 sitting of the Provincial Legislature; and copies of a letter dated April 23, 2012 from Mayor Kelly to the Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

Mr. Fillmore advised that although staff has not received anything official, they have heard that none of the amendments will be passed, and he noted that the spring sitting of the Legislature ends in two days. Mr. Fillmore added that, at this point, staff is re-grouping with the intent of submitting the amendments for the fall sitting of the Legislature.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 6, 2012

A brief discussion ensued with regard to whether the meetings need to be extended and **it was agreed** that future meetings would be scheduled for 2 ½ hours.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant