

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 28, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair
Ms. Joanne Macrae
Mr. Peter Moorhouse,
Mr. Eric Burchill
Mr. Geoff Leboutillier
Mr. Bill Book
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning and Infrastructure
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning
Ms. Susan Corser, Project Coordinator
Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 19, 2013

It was agreed to defer the approval of the June 19, 2013 minutes to the next meeting.

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

The Chair noted that Dr. Watson-Creed had circulated via e-mail information on Community Food Security and with the Committee's agreement, she would table this to the agenda for staff to look at.

Councillor Watts requested that an update to the schedule by staff be added to the agenda.

MOVED by Mr. Burchill, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda, as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS:

4.1 Definition of Greenbelting

E-mail correspondence dated June 21, 2013 was submitted from Mr. Geoff Leboutillier.

The Chair advised that at the last meeting the Committee felt that Greenbelting needed more discussion and Mr. Leboutillier has provided his comment.

Mr. Leboutillier advised that he felt Greenbelting should be in Chapters 2 and 3.

Mr. French advised that staff have not received a lot of public feedback that there isn't clarity around this matter. He added that the public has commented that they may want something different, not that it doesn't work.

Mr. Leboutillier suggested that the difficulty may be that 'Greenbelting is not articulated enough.

Councillor Watts advised that the Committee is offering more of a planning tool and if there was greater clarity of other tools that are influencing growth in certain areas like the role of CCC's, then this may help give the public more confidence.

In reference to the submitted e-mail from Mr. Leboutillier, the Chair noted that the Committee agreed to this definition of Greenbelting at the last meeting.

Mr. Leboutillier advised that in addition to what the Committee agreed to at the last meeting, he added an additional clause to expand on the definition so that it is very clear. As well, he noted that he feels it should be included in Chapter 3 and well as Chapter 2.

At 11:45 a.m. Dr. Watson-Creed entered the meeting.

The Chair advised Dr. Watson-Creed that her e-mail had been tabled.

The Chair suggested that, at this time, Ms. Fraser provide an update on the schedule (i.e. critical path)

Ms. Fraser provided an update on the timeline for the RP+5 review. She advised that the current process would see the matter coming before Regional Council October 22, 2013 for first reading, and the public hearing held November 12, 2013. Ms. Fraser noted that the process includes review by Legal Services because a bylaw has to accompany it when it goes to Council and, in order to allow time for this, Version 3 has to be completed by September 18, therefore, the last date for policy changes would be the end of July.

The Chair asked Ms. Fraser to send out this information to the Committee.

In response to a question from the Chair with respect to the review of Chapter 7 by the Heritage Advisory Committee, Mr. French advised that the Heritage Advisory Committee will provide its own report to Council.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Correspondence: None

5.2 Petitions: None

5.3 Presentations: None

6. REPORTS:

6.1 Discussion on 25-50-25 Growth Targets

Councillor Watts advised that she was concerned about the growth targets and that the Municipality is not meeting the 25 percent urban target and that HRM could go another five years without addressing it in any real way. She noted that there are cost implications for not meeting the target and she questioned if the Committee would consider moving the target to 30 percent.

Mr. Leboutillier advised that HRM Alliance commissioned a poll that shows that over 75 percent of respondents feel that the 25-50-25 is a minimum and that there is a lot of concern about growth targets.

The Chair asked Mr. Leboutillier to provide the polling information to the Committee if it was publicly available.

Mr. Book explained that the number (25-50-25) was the objective in the original 25 year Regional Plan and he did not see a need to deviate from this. He added that there seems to be more concern about the Plan after the first 5 years than needs to be. He advised that he felt the number should be left as is.

Mr. Morley suggested that the key is to track the progress against the target more regularly, pointing out that doing it yearly will be critical for Regional Council to respond to these changes.

Mr. Book advised that when he read through the public input there seems to a perception that instead of revising the current plan, HRM is writing a new one, and he cautioned the Committee to ensure it is sticking to their original plan.

Mr. Leboutillier suggested that the Committee has to provide Council with enough policies that give Council the ability to direct growth.

6.2 Continued Review of Community Feedback Tables

The Committee continued its review of the tables outlining feedback from the community.

Councillor Mason indicated that he doesn't understand what is being done to tip the growth for the growth centres.

Mr. French advised that he would clarify that.

Councillor Mason advised that he did not feel that Chapter 3 was strong enough and that the language needs to be stronger about the kind of suburbs that the Municipality is going to build.

Mr. French responded that staff's view is that the 2006 Plan provided good guidance around building suburbs. He added that if the Councillor had something specific, staff would take that under consideration.

Councillor Mason referred to Chapter 3, Settlement and Housing and advised that he would like the language in reference to the types of growth centres strengthened, and suggested that the word 'required' be used.

Ms. Fraser advised that staff would check with Legal Services on this.

Councillor Watts referred to 'Housing and Affordability' in Chapter 3 and asked staff to investigate the status in HRM's Charter on this as she thought that the Municipality was mandated to be involved. Mr. French agreed to look into this (i.e. the Municipality is required to include accessible use in its land use planning).

A discussion ensued with regard to subdivisions outside of a growth centre with Mr. French advising they are permitted, but that there is a cap of 100 units placed on these subdivisions.

Dr. Watson-Creed noted that the Plan doesn't speak to that and suggested that it was important to include this rationale in the document otherwise the public will be confused and see contradictions.

Chapter 4 - TRANSPORTATION:

Mr. French advised that there were no changes specifically recommended by staff for this chapter, but he would review the comments staff have made.

Discussion was held on whether the list of roads should be removed from the document and placed in the Road Network Functional Plan, with concern being expressed by Councillor Watts that if it is removed from the Plan, there will be no public consultation.

At 1:15 p.m. Councillor McCluskey retired from the meeting.

Chapter 5 - ECONOMY

Mr. French advised that the essence of the Altus Study was that the most significant thing that can be done to bring more business to the downtown is to get more residential development in the downtown.

At 1:45 p.m. Councillor Watts and Mr. Moorhouse retired from the meeting.

It was suggested that the Chapter on the Regional Centre should be incorporated in the the Economy and Finance Chapter, noting that the economic section currently does not speak to the Downtown.

Ms. Fraser advised that staff would take this under consideration and report back at the next meeting.

The Chair then returned to the previous discussion on Greenbelting and questioned whether Mr. Leboutillier's definition (submitted by e-mail) would make it into the Plan.

In response, Ms. Fraser advised that staff is comfortable in expanding the definition in Chapter 2, but staff are not comfortable with putting Greenbelting in Chapter 3 because it sets up the view that HRM is using Greenbelting to manage growth. Ms. Fraser advised that if the Committee feels that it would like it in Chapter 3 or want the definition strengthened then the Committee needs to clarify this in the report it provides to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

Ms. Macrae advised that she felt it was deceiving to use the term Greenbelting because the term has a definition but it was not being used in that sense.

The Chair questioned if the definition of 'existing road' could be put in the Plan. Mr. French indicated he would give this consideration.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. French advised that at the next meeting he will review the comment sheet and Chapter 9. He noted that in addition to this, the Committee has received all the written submissions and staff are going to put this information into tables.

Councillor Nicoll advised that at the next meeting she would like a discussion on why there isn't a Harbour Priority Plan in the Regional Plan. Also, Councillor Nicoll asked that a discussion be held on what is permitted in the Business Parks and Industrial Park zoning.

7. ADDED ITEMS: None
8. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 3, 2013
9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant