

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 20, 2014

PRESENT: Ms. Allison Sparling, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Mr. Gordon Smith
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Janet Barlow
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Me. Ben Buckwold
Mr. Clive MacGregor

REGRETS: Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Mark Coffin
Mr. Matthew Worona

STAFF: Ms. Jessie Debaie, Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre. Mr. Warren assumed the Chair for the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

At this time, nominations were accepted for the position of Chair.

MOVED by Ms. Barlow, seconded by Councillor Mason that Ms. Sparling be appointed Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Warren called three times for any further nominations for Chair, there being none nominations ceased.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Warren declared Ms. Sparling as Chair. The meeting continued with Ms. Sparling as Chair.

The Chair proceeded with the election of Vice Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Barlow that Mr. Buckwold be appointed Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations for Vice Chair, there being none nominations ceased.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee noted a number of community announcements.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2014

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of January 16, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

6.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review – recommendations for consideration – Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Regan.

Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Regan distributed recommendations to the Committee for their consideration. It was agreed that Committee members review the recommendations and bring back any comments and recommendations to the Committee at the March 20, 2014 meeting.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - None

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentations - None

9. REPORTS/UPDATES

9.1 Staff

9.1.1 Active Transportation Staff

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee of the following:

- An open house was held on the North Park Street Round-About. The consultants will be reviewing the comments and suggestions from the public;
- The Porters Lake Plan is almost complete and the Committee will have an opportunity to review the plan;
- A pilot project for signage on trails is now under way; and
- The Complete Streets Program is under way and will have an update in the near future.

Ms. Koblants informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Plan will be going to Regional Council in April for their recommendations.

9.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Debaie presented the following updates to the Committee:

- HRM Regional Trail staff had meetings with HRM Legal and HRM Risk Management to review the Capital and Maintenance Agreements that have been used in past years to provide structure to the community process and to allow the

Community Trails groups to spend HRM money. Last year only the maintenance agreement was signed. The capital agreement was not. It was decided that a Council Report would be needed to allow Council to decide how to move forward with the community model of trail building in HRM.

- Council Report: Mid February date for the Council Report on the Regional Trails Program and the agreements have been postponed until March 4, 2014. The Council Report will set out the conditions and authority for HRM to spend funds through Community Development Model through agreements with Halifax Regional Trails Association and its community trail members.
- Sackville Rivers Association (SRA) Greenway Update: Sackville Rivers Association has let a tender to the WSP Consultants- formerly Genivar to develop Class A Design drawings for the Sackville Greenway sections on public land with options of how to cross a couple of sections of private lands. Active Transportation and Regional Trail staff have been debating over making a section of the Greenway at the Downsview Mall off Sackville Drive to a 5% grade as opposed to an 8% grade as is the usual standard for wheel chair accessibility. The difference in cost between the 5% and 8 % grade is approximately \$120,000.00 and since there is a new HRM emphasis on accessibility both options are being considered at this time.
- Chain of Lakes and Beechville Lakeside Timberlea (BLT) Trail Closure Update: Work on the entire Chain of Lakes 7.25 km and 300 metres of the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail began on Monday February 17, 2014 with a temporary closure for 5 days for bore hole drilling. The drilling work will require the trail closure from Ashburn Golf Course drive way to Raines Mill Road. As sections of the trail work are completed the trail will re-open. The work on installing the waste water pipe system and the re- instatement of both trail sections is scheduled to begin this spring and will be completed by the fall of 2014. The trail will be closed one section at a time with detour routes planned during construction phases. Where possible the trail width will be increased from 3 metres to 3.5 metres and the entire 7.35 km of trail will be paved. Notices of trail closure are in circulation.
- Porter's Lake Active Transportation Plan Update: Porter's Lake Active Transportation Plan draft has been made available for comment to staff, Councillor's and the Shore Active Transportation Association. Once the comments are collected and incorporated the Final Plan will be available.
- Tactile Markers for Chain of Lakes Trail: Since accessibility is being made a priority in HRM, Regional Trails Staff are asking that the Active Transportation Committee recommend and support the installation of tactile markers after the new paving is complete for the Chain of Lakes Trail. This final addition would make the trail accessible to sight impaired residents and would make the greenway a good example for sight accessibility for greenways of the future.

- Funding Partner Contributions for Trails and Greenways in HRM: HRM Regional Trails staff has been compiling data to show the partner funding that has been used to build trails and greenways from 2006 – 2013. A total of \$1,818,666.00 was obtained to leverage HRM funding from Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funding (MRIF), Recreational Infrastructure Funding Contribution (RIFC) and Stimulus Funding while \$1,520,728.00 was leveraged by community groups from Health and Wellness, Trans Canada Trail and NS Moves in partner agreements with those funding bodies.
- Trans Canada Trail Letters to the Mayors & Wardens: HRM's Mayor has received a letter from Trans Canada Trail announcing \$25 million in funding to complete the Trans Canada Trail. A meeting is scheduled in early March 2014 to meet with representatives from Trans Canada Trail and NS Trails regarding using some of this funding in HRM.

9.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan provided the following update to the Committee:

- Informed the Committee that a replacement for Mr. Amber has not been done and questioned if there are any new staff to be added to HRM Trails;
- MRM has been added to all Halifax Regional Trails Association and Trail Groups Insurance Policies;
- An invitation to the members to attend the Halifax Regional Trails Association Annual General Meeting on April 14, 2014 at the Fairbanks Centre, Bedford;
- Informed the Committee that he attended a meeting on Computerization of Trails and other outdoor activities (Live Mapping). This project is funded by Recreation Nova Scotia;
- An invitation to attend the Trail Counter Workshop on March 29, 2014;
- Bike Week applications are now being accepted
- Request a staff member from HRM Parks be appointed to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee; and
- The National Trails Coalition has announced \$10,000,000.00 in funding for trails all across Canada.

9.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. Buckwold informed the Committee that Bike Fest will be held on June 8, 2014.

9.4 Committee Members

Mr. Smith stated that pedestrians first, not bikes should be a priority of the Committee. He informed the Committee that there are no safe shoulders for walking in rural areas and this Committee should set priorities for pedestrians and develop an approach for this.

A brief discussion ensued.

Councillor Mason informed the members that the Active Transportation Plan doesn't include rural areas due to ownership issues, especially roads and sidewalks. He commented that he would like to see paved shoulders in all rural communities.

Mr. Buckwold questioned how Porter's Lake Strategy began. Ms. Debaie responded that the Shore Active Transportation Association approached TDM and the Seven Lakes Sub-division. Mr. Buckwold stated that he would like to see this strategy as a model that could be used in other rural communities.

Ms. Pugh informed members that residents would have to give up an easement, and that the province would not agree to paved shoulders. She also stated that HRM would have to pay for the installation of sidewalks. The province is working on an Active Transportation Provincial Policy along with Accessibility.

9.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that the Work Plan has been completed with recommendations going to the Transportation Standing Committee and with their approval it will move forward to Regional Council.

10. ADDED ITEMS – None

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be held on March 20, 2014.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee agreed to have Mr. Buckwold give a presentation on the Winnipeg Winter Cycling Congress at the next meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Mr. Darcy Warren
Legislative Support