



**COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 30, 2015**

PRESENT: Fred Morley, Chair  
Gaynor Watson-Creed, Vice Chair  
Councillor Waye Mason  
Councillor Gloria McCluskey  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
William Book  
Eric Burchill  
Peter Moorhouse

REGRETS: Joanne Macrae  
Dale Godsoe  
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Jacob Ritchie, Manager, Urban Design  
Elikem Tsamenyi, Legislative Support  
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Community Design Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/CDACAgenda150930.php>

*The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. and the Committee adjourned at 12:36 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:45 am.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June, 24, 2015**

**MOVED** by Councillor McClusky, seconded by Mr. Book that the minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting of the Community Design Advisory Committee be approved as distributed. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS - NONE**

Addition:

8.1 Presentation of Expert Studies/Information to Committee

**MOVED** by Mr. Burchill, seconded by Ms. Watson-Creed, that the agenda be approved as distributed.

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Membership Update**

The following was before the Committee:

- A memorandum dated September 24, 2015 from the Deputy Clerk

**MOVED** by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Burchill

**That the Community Design Advisory Committee (CDAC) recommend to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee that the terms of the members of CDAC be extended for one year to November 2016.**

The Chair noted that the Clerk's office will be recruiting for the Committee vacancy this fall.

Councillor Jennifer Watts noted (and to which members agreed) that it would be a good idea to bring in somebody with the expertise/knowledge in building and construction/ energy efficiency. The Deputy Clerk indicated that the Clerk's Office will be made aware of the Committee's comments when recruitment for the vacancy is opened.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence-None**

**6.2 Petitions-None**

**6.3 Presentation-None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 STAFF**

### 7.1.1 Centre Plan - Program Update for CDAC

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation entitled Centre Plan: Program update for CDAC

Mr. Jacob Ritchie, updated the Committee on the Centre Plan, with updates on requests for proposals, staff efforts, related projects and the next steps going forward. In his presentation, Mr. Ritchie noted that most updates and technical reports are ready and would be forwarded to the committee for review in due time.

Mr. Ritchie also touched on ways to bring in other experts to present to the committee. He noted for instance a presentation on an academic research project from a faculty member at Dalhousie University that sought citizens' attitudes/feelings towards development planning. Mr. Ritchie believes the Committee will find this study and others like it interesting.

On updates, the program direction has been mapped out and includes first, identifying issues, policies and implementation plans of the secondary Municipal Planning strategies. Some of these include the 2008 Regional Centre Urban Design Study, the 2010 Neighbourhood Greenprint, Corridors Project of 2010 and the Technical Studies done in 2014. Second, communications strategies to engage the public require technical support in policy innovation and implementation strategy. There is the need to communicate these things as clearly as possible to the public. This requires engaging experts/consultants so as to keep the project on time. . With regards to land use bylaws, there is the need to harmonize and update all land use by laws. There have been staff led efforts in this regard and there are plans to hire consultants. The Centre Plan RFP is meant to bring on board experts/consultants to provide planning and project management expertise and also to provide direction on communication and public engagement in line with the entire project. This RFP is important in order to bring in the expertise that staff may not necessarily have. The hired consultants will be required to review all the work that has been done so far and give advice and direction to the completion of the project.

Mr. Ritchie also presented the plan/schedule for the project going forward. The schedule runs from the Fall of 2015 through to Fall 2016. This will also mean explicitly outlining what the Centre Plan will do and what it will not do.

On related projects, Mr. Ritchie indicated that the local piped service capacity issues that plans are being made to better define the project. Mr. Ritchie noted that work on the Downtown Dartmouth MPS has been completed and is ready for approval.

Work on the Downtown Halifax Plan will be shadowed on the work done with the Downtown Dartmouth plan. With regards to any changes made during this process, Councillor Jennifer Watts wanted to know if there would be fresh public consultation. Mr. Ritchie notes that if there are major changes, for instance significant of height changes, then there would be a fresh public consultation. However, if these changes are few and minor, there won't be any such engagements. Mr. Ritchie also noted that this project is slightly behind schedule however there is now a clear path towards completion.

Mr. Book wondered if this means that once these two projects are completed, Downtown Dartmouth and Downtown Halifax will be connected so that anyone who wants to do development in both Downtown Dartmouth and Downtown Halifax will essentially use the same road maps? Mr. Ritchie responded in the affirmative. Mr. Burchill noted that he believes there will need to be a lot of dialogue with stakeholders, especially with regards to specific issues/legislations. Instances here include the 30 day rule and height issues regarding development in these areas. He believes these issues may lead to staff having too much on their hands within a short period of time. Mr. Ritchie acknowledged this difficulty but noted that it will be impossible to consult with every single developer on all of these issues.

Mr. Ritchie went on to advise that work on the Dutch Village Plan is on-going and is expected to be done soon so as to free up staff to concentrate on the. The proposed changes will mean a change to how density bonusing is done everywhere in the municipality. These reports will be made available to the committee and the public before the next meeting. The public can access the report through the usual public forums, while CDAC will receive it through the Clerk's office.

On the next steps going forward, there will be continued engagement strategy implementation. A white paper has been forwarded to stakeholders. The next public engagement is scheduled in early November. There will also be the launch of 'Shape your City' portal, awarding of the RFP for lead consultant and an engagement through all the work the Urban Design and Policy team is doing. Both Councillors Watts and McClusky suggested it would be a good idea to make a presentation to Council to ensure they are updated on the Plan.

Mr. Ritchie confirmed that the Centre Plan is approximately 12 months away in response to a question from Councillor Mason.

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Presentation of Expert Studies/Information to Committee**

Mr. Ritchie indicated that there were a number of expert studies and presenters who he believed the Committee should hear from and noted that he would be discussing with the Clerk the appropriate manner in which to bring these presentations to the Committee.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Design Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2015, from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm

Elikem Tsamenyi  
Legislative Support