



**COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 24, 2016**

PRESENT: Fred Morely, Chair
Gaynor Watson-Creed, Vice Chair
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Eric Burchill
Joanne Macrae

REGRETS: William Book
Councillor Brad Johns
Dale Godsoe
Peter Moorhouse

STAFF: Jacob Ritchie, Manager, Urban Design
Holly Richardson, Coordinator, Parks and Open Space
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 the Community Design Advisory Committee available online:

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 p.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:37 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 25, 2015 and December 16, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason

That the minutes of the November 25, 2015 and the December 15, 2015 meetings be approved as

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Mr. Burchill

That the agenda be approved as distributed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 Halifax Green Network Plan Update (Staff Presentation)

The following was before the Committee

- Halifax Green Network – State of the Landscape Report
- Halifax Green Network – What We Heard Report – Phase1: Foundations
- Halifax Green Network – Frequently Asked Questions
- A staff presentation entitled “Halifax Green Network, An Open Space and Green belting Priorities Plan for the Region

Mr. Jacob Ritchie, Manager, Urban Design, introduced the Green Network Plan and Ms. Holly Richardson, Coordinator, Parks and Opens Space.

Ms. Richardson delivered the presentation speaking to the Regional Plan Objectives and the Halifax Green Network priorities plan. She went on to review the key open space objectives and reviewing Phase 1 of the project, Foundations including the State of the Landscape Report.

Ms. Watson-Creed joined the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Referring to information gathered in the State of the Landscape Report, Ms. Richards reviewed the Open Space Assessment key findings including mapping of land cover, potable source water, and landscape

pinch points to wildlife movement. She went on review the Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Working Landscapes, Recreation and Trails, Communities and Cultural Landscapes key findings. Concluding her presentation, Ms. Richardson noted that public input will be sought within the next 2-3 weeks.

Member's discussion the presentation/plan noting the following:

- Given the emphasis on active transportation, the recognition that the trail system is inadequate is key
- Consideration must be given to the cultural differences regarding use of open space
- Staff must ensure collaboration with First Nation peoples regarding open space
- More discussion about areas for food production in urban setting is required. Community Easements (to use private lands for food production) is there a tool and is it used. This is an item for discussion at a future meeting – Food Security – Centre Plan

The Chair thanked Ms. Richardson for her presentation.

8.1.2 Update/Discussion on the delivery of the Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (with O2 Planning + Design led Consultant team)

Mr. Ritchie delivered the update utilizing a presentation. The presentation is on file and can be viewed online at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/160224cdac-agenda.php>.

Relative to the delivery of the Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (SMPS), Mr. Ritchie reviewed the project start up and understanding (Step 1) and provided an overview of setting the framework for the framework. He went on to detail the progress of the SMPS in terms of meetings, opportunities for staff updates and noted that the first public engagement session will be held in March and attended by the consultant, O2. Mr. Ritchie outlined the timeline for public consultations, public review of the Draft Plan and the presentation of the Final Plan to Council.

In terms of risk management, staff has adopted a risk assessment approach that fits with the Council direction of ISO 31000 standards. Mr. Ritchie presented a broad list of identified risks to which members added:

- Confusion between Municipal/Provincial mandate (e.g. affordable housing)
- Belief that 'You are not listening, why should we engage'
- The length of time the Centre Plan has been ongoing
- Internal Nested Policy Barriers
- Ensuring Connection with the Economic Strategy

Mr. Ritchie indicated that a slightly different focus including visible representations of how we are changing, communication of what is occurring to ensure momentum is maintained, and clear direction on when developments have to conform with the proposed changes will help to rebuild confidence in the project. Mr. Ritchie noted that if staff received a new application to amend the MPS today, the Centre Plan will likely be before Council before that request.

8.1.3 Update/Discussion on delivery of the engagement strategy (considering inputs from Consultant team)

Mr. Ritchie delivered the update utilizing a presentation. The presentation is on file and can be viewed online at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/160224cdac-agenda.php>.

Mr. Ritchie noted that the strategy has four steps and that a report would be coming to the Committee in June 2016 regarding the second step 'Learn Together'. He went on to advise, as indicated above, that

the first public engagement (workshop) would be held on Monday, March 21, 2016 at Alderney Landing with the Open House beginning at 6:00 p.m. and a presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Ritchie reviewed the principles underpinning the Communication Plan and presented drafts of the communication materials to be used highlighting the project theme of What If into How To.

8.1.4 Update on the Land Use By-Law Harmonization Approach

Mr. Jacob Ritchie delivered the update utilizing a presentation. The presentation is on file and can be viewed online at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/160224cdac-agenda.php>.

Mr. Ritchie noted that staff were working on the Land Use By-law analysis in conjunction with the work being undertaken on other aspects of the Centre Plan. He indicated that the by-law is the principal implementation and regulatory tool for the Plan.

During discussion it was noted that the Land Use By-law will be a controversial consultation as the public dig into the detail of the By-law. Matters such as the hours of operation of restaurants/lounges are not regulated through the By-law but are a matter for the annual licensing. Issues such as these will have to be placed in a 'Bicycle Rack' for consideration. Mr. Ritchie indicated that specific sessions will be held to consider the Land Use By-law.

Councillor Watts noted that there was concern from the public that under HRM by Design there is no ability to request change. She further indicated that there is concern that the Design Review Committee is dominated by developers. Mr. Ritchie indicated that these discussions would more appropriately be had through the five year review of the Halifax Downtown Plan.

Councillor Watts suggested that staff do an update to the Community Council providing an opportunity for questions.

Mr. Ritchie advised that the new web site, Centreplan.ca, was launched today.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Sherrill Murphy
Deputy Clerk