



**COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 23, 2016**

PRESENT: Fred Morley, Chair  
Dale Godsoe  
William Book  
Peter Moorhouse  
Eric Burchill  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor Lindell Smith  
Councillor Tony Mancini  
Councillor Waye Mason

REGRETS: Gaynor Watson-Creed, Vice Chair  
Christopher Day  
Joanne Macrae

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

*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/161123cdac-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m., and recessed at 1:10 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 1:30 p.m. The Committee adjourned at 02:30 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:40 am and welcomed new members of the committee to their first meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 26, 2016**

Mr. William Book requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect his request for changes to the indexes of chapters in the report dated October, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Waye Mason, seconded by Councillor Sam Austin

**THAT the minutes of October 26, 2016 of the Community Design Advisory committee are approved as amended**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

MOVED by Dale Godsoe, seconded by William Book,

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

**8.1 Draft Centre Plan**

**8.1.1 Update on Public Consultation on the Draft Centre Plan**

Mr. Jacob Ritchie provided an update on the consultation meetings on the Draft Centre Plan. He noted that there were 4 meetings over two weeks, which afforded people the opportunity to comment and give feedback on the plan. Per Mr. Ritchie, these consultations were well attended, with about 300 attendees in total over the two-week period. Attendance ranged from 25 people to between 70 and 100 per meeting. The meetings included Q and A session (the first of the kind at such events). The comments from the public will be summarised by December 2<sup>nd</sup> and presented to the committee at the December 14 meeting of CDAC. Over all, the consultation generated positive conversations and feedback

Mr. Ritchie also brought to the committee's attention to community activities that are currently ongoing. There are several community walks being organised by Walk n Roll an advocacy group for accessibility in the city in collaboration with several other individuals and organisations, with some material and logistical support from staff. These activities are being used as part of the engagement strategy with the community

to get involved in conversations about the draft plan and get the public's feedback. Mr. Ritchie urged the councillors to get in touch with him if they are interested in some of these activities within their districts. Over all, he feels enthused by the level of engagement and discussion of the plan from the public.

### **8.1.2 Draft Plan Review: Detailed discussions of areas of concern to committee members**

The following was before the committee:

- *A handout dated October, 2016 and entitled Draft Centre Plan*

Mr. Ritchie gave each member of the committee the opportunity to talk about areas of the report on which clarification and further discussion was required. The following areas were of concern to most members and formed the focus of the discussions.

- Update on Go Forward Schedule
- Measurement of regulatory cost (reduction of red tape)
- Implementation for development-usability/utility for development, development costs and viability of development
- Urban Structure-Centre Policies, mobility relationship, affordable housing, residential areas, Issues around Highfield and Bloomfield
- Monitoring- Why measure? Why monitor?
- Jobs and economic development- Integration with economic plan (job location decisions, small business)
- Issues around the expected newness (sharing economy, autonomous vehicle)
- Organisational culture, identification of champions
- What have we learned from the past? Is it still the same?

Ms. Joanne Macrae joined the meeting at this time.

It was agreed during the discussions that topics that are not discussed because of time constraints will be discussed during the next meeting in December.

Other important concerns were raised. For instance, it was put forward by Ms. Dale Godsoe that the CAO be the champion of the plan to encourage all other departments to adopt it into their plans and policies.

Councillor Sam Austin raised concerns about the language on cycling infrastructure in the report about networks. He proposed the language be stronger and clearer in this regard.

Councillor Waye Mason also raised concerns about clarity on the language with regards to what is allowed in residential areas. He asked for clarity to avoid grey areas as currently exists.

The meeting recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m. at which time Mr. Burchill and Councillor Mancini left the meeting.

On the monitoring of results, Mr. Ritchie indicated that there is a dedicated team for measuring and monitoring. This is important to respond to pressing changes within the Regional Centre and improve the quality of decision making.

MOVED by Ms. Godsoe, seconded by Councillor Mason that

**Halifax Regional Council request staff to provide a report which details all the baseline data regarding all the metrics of the monitoring of the Centre Plan as set out in Section 4.1.2 of the draft Centre Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Regarding benchmarking, the Chair raised the question about what good practice looks like or would look like. Mr. Ritchie noted that currently most benchmarking is done against other departments rather than an inter-city benchmarking.

Ms. Dale Godsoe leaves the meeting.

With regards to the Go Forward schedule, Mr. Ritchie advised that on December 14, 2016 staff will come back to the Committee with a summary of the most recent consultations. Mr. Ritchie pointed out that the document before the Committee is not in policy format (i.e. shall, will). The document was written to improve understanding of the policy. Work is required on setting this document up as a policy document.

There are also efforts to determine whether to write a new land-use by-law or amend the existing by-law to allow for the adoption of the Centre Plan. The amalgamation of the By-laws could be handled in the larger By-law Simplification project. To do this, there is the realization that there is a need to revamp staffing to make sure this is done in a timely fashion.

Mr. Ritchie indicated that staff's goal is to bring a package that will begin the process to adopt the plan in early 2017.

Members of the Committee expressed concern regarding staff's suggestion that the plan may not come forward with a new Land Use By-law.

The Chair indicated that he would summarize the committee's comments to be distributed to all members for consideration on December 14, 2016.

## **8.2 2017 Meeting Schedule**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Book that:

**the Community Design Advisory Committee approve the 2017 meeting schedule as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2016 begin at 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (with supper provided). The meeting will be held in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 02:30 p.m.

Elikem Tsamenyi  
Legislative Support