

COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

May 2, 2012

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair  
Mr. Fred Morley, Vice Chair  
Mr. William Book  
Mr. Eric Burchill  
Mr. Geoff LeBoutillier  
Ms. Joanne Macrae  
Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed  
Councillor Peter Lund  
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Dawn Sloane  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Sue Uteck  
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Mr. Peter Moorhouse

STAFF: Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager  
Ms. Susan Corser, Project Coordinator  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS .....	3
5.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS .....	3
5.1	Correspondence .....	3
5.2	Petitions .....	3
5.3	Presentations.....	3
6.	REPORTS: .....	4
6.1	Centre Plan:.....	4
6.2	RP+5:.....	4
7.	ADDED ITEMS .....	7
7.1	Forward Agenda.....	7
7.2	Metrics Analysis.....	7
7.3	Teambuilding.....	8
8.	NEXT MEETING DATE .....	8
9.	ADJOURNMENT .....	8

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Ms. Godsoe expressed her appreciation to the Committee for voting her in as Chair and she thanked Mr. Morley for Chairing the past two meetings on her behalf.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Macrea pointed out that during a discussion at the April 18 meeting, she had suggested that staff send another notification mail-out of the upcoming public consultation sessions, if possible. She advised that she would like this comment included in the minutes.

**MOVED by Councillor Lund, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that the minutes of April 18, 2012 be approved with the inclusion of Ms. Macrea's comment. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 7.1 Forward Agenda
- 7.2 Metrics Analysis
- 7.3 Teambuilding

**MOVED by Mr. Book, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED BUSINESS: None**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Correspondence**

It was noted that some Committee members had received an e-mail in regard to the Centre Plan project and a discussion ensued concerning how such correspondence should be handled. **It was agreed** that correspondence received by Committee members would be forwarded to the Legislative Assistant and she will ensure that it is distributed to staff and the Committee.

**5.2 Petitions: None**

**5.3 Presentations: None**

Prior to moving to the reports section of the agenda, the Chair advised that she and Ms. Macrea had announcements to make with regard to a declaration of a possible conflict.

Ms. Macrea advised that she wanted to disclose to the Committee that she would be working on the campaign of a mayoral candidate in the upcoming election.

Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair advised that she was sitting on a committee of a mayoral candidate in the upcoming election.

## **6. REPORTS:**

The Chair advised that item 6.2 would be dealt with at this time.

### **6.2 RP+5:**

- Public Engagement Process Update
- Communications and Outreach Update
- Milestone: CDAC Report (June)

Ms. Corser provided an overview of the public engagement process with regard to the Regional Plan review advising that a series of meetings was held and that the feedback from this is being compiled. She explained that the Committee will receive a report in June and this will be one aspect in the report. Another piece of the report will be an overall recommendation of direction under the five themes, and staff will be seeking the Committee's direction on this. She noted that staff's target date for the report is June 20.

A discussion ensued with regard to the information gathered leading up to the report, with Mr. Fillmore suggesting that they could start sharing the components now with the Committee.

At 11:20 a.m. Councillor Nicoll advised that she had another appointment to attend, and excused herself from the meeting.

A brief discussion ensued with staff responding to questions.

In response to a question, Ms. Corser advised that establishing a measurable indication will be part of the Regional Plan review, and pointed out that a team of staff is currently looking at what is appropriate to measure and where the information to do this can be found.

### **6.1 Centre Plan:**

- Public Engagement Process Update
- Communications and Outreach Update
- Milestone: CDAC Report (July)

Mr. Fillmore provided a presentation on HRMbyDesign highlighting the three phases, and elaborating on the Phase 3, the Centre Plan. In his remarks Mr. Fillmore advised

that density bonusing is a key piece of the Centre Plan process, and that staff have submitted a request to the Provincial Legislature for an amendment to the HRM Charter to enable density bonusing in the Centre Plan area. He added that it is anticipated that it will be dealt with in the current sitting of the Legislature. Mr. Fillmore also advised that staff have an amendment request to have the site plan approval process expanded to the Regional Centre and noted that it was key to the overall process to have these two amendments to the Charter approved.

Mr. Fillmore noted that due to time constraints, he would not review the slides on the feedback from the workshops but that he would e-mail a copy of the presentation to Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Watts, Mr. Fillmore indicated that there were ten amendments that were submitted. Councillor Watts asked staff to provide her with a listing of the ten.

At 11:45 a.m. Councillor Smith entered the meeting

Councillor Watts asked Mr. Fillmore to send her information on why the downtown area only and the rest of the Province have density bonusing and site plan approval, and how this came about. In addition, she advised that at future public meetings staff need to clearly explain 'as of right' development, and that those attending the meetings need to have an understanding that 'as of right' means no public consultation. Councillor Watts also suggested that staff ensure that this information is clear on any communication and on the website.

Mr. Fillmore noted that at the Developers Forum which was held April 24, 2012, overall, there was general support for the performance standards.

A discussion ensued.

Councillor Watts advised that she attended the meeting held this past Monday night regarding the Quinpool Corridor and had some concern with the meeting format. She explained that between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., when people arrived, the only information to view was a large sheet on the wall, and as people gathered around it, it became hard to see. She added that, further on in the meeting when staff gave their presentation, it was difficult to comprehend what was being said for those that did not have an opportunity to look at the sheet on the wall first. Councillor Watts noted that at the end of the meeting, some people left without understanding the proposed changes, and she felt this was a huge concern.

Councillor Watts also expressed concern about the large 'countdown clock' that staff used to time each speaker and advised that some people found this offensive. Councillor Watts indicated that she was very uncomfortable with the way the meeting was carried out and that, in her view, she had two options to deal with this--either hold a second public information meeting, or hold a neighbourhood consultation.

In response to Councillor Watts's concerns, Mr. Fillmore advised that the maps that staff were using were online and can be viewed there at any time. He concurred that the countdown clock was not a good idea and would not be used again. He explained that staff had quickly thought of this idea when they determined there was no clock on the wall of the meeting room. Mr. Fillmore pointed out that, although the process is accelerated, staff are following the direction of Council, and that any delay for additional public consultation would impact on the overall timeline of the process.

In response to a question by Councillor Sloane as to whether the intent is to have several public hearings or one, Mr. Fillmore advised that the intent is to have one public hearing.

Councillor Sloane suggested that it may be beneficial to have two public hearings, one pertaining to the Dartmouth side and one for the Halifax side.

Councillor Smith suggested that staff schedule other public meetings after the May consultations because the public will not have an opportunity to see the design standards and performance measures until the document goes to Council.

In response to Councillor Smith, Mr. Fillmore pointed out that this information will be online within the next three weeks or so, and the public hearing will not actually be held until October so there will be a long window of opportunity for people to review the information.

Councillor Watts emphasized the importance of carrying out this process correctly and understand if it is working. She indicated that there may be other pressures to get this done quickly but that the Committee has to be confident in the process and currently she does not have that confidence. Councillor Watts questioned if there was an option for another public information session and, if not, she questioned what other form of neighbourhood response she could use.

Given the concerns expressed, the Chair suggested that staff have the opportunity to go away and think about how this could be addressed. Mr. Fillmore concurred.

With regard to the current round of public information sessions, Councillor Lund suggested that it would be helpful if there were break-out tables for discussion, in the same manner that the first sessions were held.

Councillor Uteck expressed concern about anything which might delay the current process. She advised that if staff equips the Councillors with information, then it is up to the Councillors to prepare themselves and be able to respond to their constituent's questions.

Mr. Book advised that he felt the timelines were important and should remain. He added that staff cannot continue to hold meetings in an attempt to get more people out to the meetings. Mr. Book added that he did not feel there was anything in the

proposed plans that would adversely impact the residents. He suggested that the Councillors get out as much information to their residents as they can, and that the Committee should proceed on the timelines that have been established.

Mr. Morley also stressed the importance of staying on the timelines. He added that, often in HRM there have been windows of opportunity for growth that have been missed. He added that with low interest rates, and the Irving Shipyard contract, there is opportunity now but in two years' time, whether those opportunities will still be there is unknown.

Dr. Watson-Creed pointed out that, in her experience in carrying out public engagement, many people now prefer to engage online rather than through the traditional way of attending public meetings.

Councillor Sloane pointed out that the Committee needs to keep in mind why this process is moving forward quickly, as there is concern among neighbourhoods that feel they are under siege from development.

In response to a question by Ms. Macrae about the impact on the process of holding another public information session, Mr. Fillmore indicated that this was something staff have to look into.

The Chair advised that this matter would be brought back to the next agenda.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 Forward Agenda**

The Chair advised that she thought the idea of a 'Forward Agenda' would be beneficial as it would provide the Committee more clarity on what is to be covered, and will enable the Committee to plan its work more effectively. She suggested that it be a discussion item for the first June meeting.

Councillor Watts added that she would like to see issues centred on themes for discussion.

Mr. Fillmore and Ms. Corser indicated that they could prepare a forward agenda for the Committee.

### **7.2 Metrics Analysis**

The Chair advised that due to time constraints this item would be placed on the next agenda.

### **7.3 Teambuilding**

The Chair advised that due to time constraints this item would be placed on the next agenda.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 16, 2012**

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion **MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Mr. Book the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.**

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant