

REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE/
STEERING COMMITTEE/
URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE
MINUTES

JOINT MEETING

April 02, 2008

REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

PRESENT: Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Ms. Margo Grant
Mr. Robert Batherson
Councillor Gloria McCluskey

REGRETS: Ms. Heather Bown
Mr. Dan English, CAO
Ms. Bonnie Ryan
Mr. Paul Pettipas

THE STEERING COMMITTEE:

PRESENT: Mr. Matthew Johnson, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
(ACOA) - Federal Representative

REGRETS: Mr. Stephen King, HRM, Manager, Environmental
Performance

URBAN DESIGN TASK FORCE:

PRESENT: Ms. Dale Godsoe, Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Mr. Paul MacKinnon, Vice-Chair
Mr. Bernie Smith
Ms. Margot Young
Ms. Adriane Abbott
Mr. Frank Palermo
Mr. David Garrett

Joint meeting: UDTF/SC/RPAC

April 02, 2008

Mr. Kevin Riles
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Mr. Kendall Taylor
Mr. Stephen Terauds

REGRETS:

Ms. Cathy Carmody
Ms. Linda Garber
Mr. Paul Shakotko
Mr. Bill Hyde
Councillor Jim Smith

STAFF:

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community
Planning
Mr. Andy Fillmore, Project Manager, Capital District
Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District
Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services
Ms. Thea Langille, Project Implementation Coordinator
Mr. Richard Harvey, Senior Planner, Planning Applications
Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	4
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - none	4
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	4
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	
	6.1 Correspondence; The Armour Group Limited - A.M. McCrea	4
7.	REPORTS	
	7.1 Sign-off on Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS) and Land Use ByLaw (LUB) for Downtown Halifax	5
	7.2 Regional Plan Amendments	6
8.	NEW BUSINESS	6
9.	ADDED ITEMS	6
10.	DATE OF NEXT <i>JOINT</i> MEETING - May 07, 2008	6
11.	ADJOURNMENT	7

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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4

April 02, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair of the Urban Design Task Force, Ms. Dale Godsoe, called the meeting to order at 11:15a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, stating she would co-Chair with Mr. Fred Morley of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee.

Ms. Godsoe had everyone present introduce themselves for the benefit of the combined Committees.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - none

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

Ms. Godsoe advised that 7.2 would be Regional Plan Amendments, to be handled by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee and correspondence from The Armour Group Limited would be added under Correspondence, Petitions & Delegations, as item 6.1.

MOVED by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Riles, that the order of business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence from A. M. McCrea, P.Eng, Chairman of The Armour Group Limited, dated April 01, 2008 - circulated electronically the evening of April 01, 2008.

Mr. Fillmore advised that Mr. McCrea's application, along with other applications, have been formally submitted to the City and are being reviewed under the current planning criteria, and HRMbyDesign has no bearing on those current applications.

Councillor Sloane remarked that it is, typically, the older of the MPS policies that is used to judge applications submitted (the MPS that is in place at the time of application), and inquired as to whether this would remain the case. Mr. Fillmore stated that

HRMbyDesign will advise the Urban Design Task Force to consider making a recommendation to Council that those applications be cleared, or ensure they will be reviewed under the current policy.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Sign-off on Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS) and Land Use ByLaw (LUB) for Downtown Halifax

Co-Chair, Mr. Morley, opened the floor for Committee questions and observations based on the presentations seen in prior meetings and background information.

Mr. Riles expressed that he does not feel that the Committees have had a real opportunity to review and discern the materials and it should not be signed off before having done so.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that minor or major amendments to the Secondary Planning Strategy should be done by Staff or a professional/non-political panel, and that it should still be a judicial process to make an appeal to Community or Regional Council.

Mr. Fillmore clarified the appeal process for the Committee members present. He added that the purpose for today's meeting is not to approve the SPS but to deem the document ready for public review, after which, the public comments would be turned back into the plan, and the Committees will once again discuss/review and make a decision on whether to approve what is in the documents.

Ms. Grant expressed concerns regarding As-of-Rights in the context of the Site Plan Review, and Mr. Riles stressed that it is critical that members of the public fully understand what this term means.

Mr. Fillmore discussed and clarified As-of-Rights for the Committees, explaining that it is a process of approval that is not discretionary, and there is no room for deliberation; it is either right or it is wrong. He advised that the other side of the approval is the discretionary side where there is more opportunity for discussion and dialogue.

Mr. Smith suggested that Staff consider that all listed property (unregistered property) identified as having heritage potential be referred to Council for approval or denial in the

event of a Demolition Application. Councillor Sloane advised that this be submitted to the Heritage Advisory Committee to push forward.

Councillor Hendsbee and Mr. Batherson left the meeting at 11:57 am and will rejoin the discussion before 2 pm. As a result, the joint meeting lost quorum and the UDTF, SC, and RPAC made the decision to remain and discuss the issues before them, and to resume discussion upon the return of quorum.

The following motion was made by the Urban Design Task Force, when quorum was resumed and the Committees had completed their discussions with clarification:

MOVED by Mr. MacKinnon, seconded by Councillor Sloane to make available to the Public for review and comment the draft Downtown Halifax Secondary Planning Strategy, Land Use Bylaw Fact Sheet, Design Manual, and Barrington Street Revitalization District Plan & Bylaw. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Regional Plan Amendments

Upon resumption of quorum and completing discussion and review, the Regional Planning Advisory Committee made the following motion:

MOVED by Mr. Batherson, seconded by Ms. Newcombe, that the Regional Plan Amendments suggested by the draft Downtown Halifax Urban Design Strategy documents are ready for public review and comment, with the appropriate representation of the sites that are currently under review. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. ADDED ITEMS - None

10. NEXT JOINT MEETING DATE

The next joint meeting is scheduled for May 07, 2008 from 11 am to 2 pm at Halifax Hall, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

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7

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Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant