

**REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, September 17, 2008**

PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Ms. Bonnie Ryan
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Mr. Paul Pettipas
Ms. Maya Warnock
Mr. Robert Batherson

REGRETS: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer, HRM
Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Ms. Margo Grant
Councillor Krista Snow

STAFF: Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor McCluskey, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm in the Helen Creighton Room, Alderney Gate Library, 40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - July 16, 2008

MOVED by Mr. Robert Batherson, seconded by Mr. Paul Pettipas, that the minutes of July 16, 2008, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Move: Item 8.2 “HRMbyDesign Draft 2 - Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan” to be dealt with first.
 Item 4.3 HRMbyDesign: Requested Amendments to the MGA - to be dealt with in conjunction with Item 8.2

Deletion: **Item 8.3** Correspondence/Responses from Committee Members to Media and Members of the Public

MOVED BY Mr. Robert Batherson, seconded by Ms. Maya Warnock that the order of business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 8.2 at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.2 HRMbyDesign Draft 2 - Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan

- The HRMbyDesign Draft 2 was before the Committee.
- A Memorandum dated September 17, 2008 was circulated at this time.

Mr. Andrew Fillmore, Project Manager, Urban Design, Capital Projects, presented the information.

Councillor Hendsbee, Vice-Chair, entered the meeting at 3:09 p.m. He assumed the Chair at this time.

In response to Councillor McCluskey, Mr. Fillmore advised that public comment was being received via e-mails, workshops, media, presentations to various groups such as Neighbourhood Watch, Residents Associations and Friends of the Halifax Commons. Councillor McCluskey encouraged staff to ensure that they also invite and receive input from persons outside the downtown core.

Ms. Cheryl Newcombe entered the meeting at 3:17 p.m. In response to Mr. Fillmore's explanation that HRMbyDesign has to deal with the downtown area prior to addressing the Cogswell Interchange matter, Mr. Pettipas suggested that the two issues should be dealt with simultaneously. The issues of infilling and where to locate tall buildings should be clarified. Mr. Fillmore explained that he did not see the two issues as proceeding separately.

Mr. Roger Wells, advised that an RFP (Request for Proposal) would be going out in the spring of 2009 in regard to a development plan for the Cogswell Interchange area. Mr. Fillmore added that the RFP would include a study on traffic and demolition. Mr. Pettipas agreed that a development plan for the area would be beneficial to any Developer interested in the area.

Mr. Fillmore responded to questions/comments of the Committee as follows:

- the remainder of the Capital Region Urban Design will be done by March 2009.
- staff are looking into a website and perhaps a presentation to the TV program Kaleidoscope. He also confirmed that HRMbyDesign has gone to the editorial boards and newspapers twice and will consider a third contact with them.
- final draft copies of the plan would be distributed to the Committee in late November. A recommendation from the Committee will be sought in December and then the matter would be forwarded to Regional Council.
- the amendments will result in amendments to the Red Book (a book outlining Engineering building specs/standards).

The Committee thanked Mr. Fillmore for his presentation.

During the approval of the agenda, the Committee agreed to deal with Item 4.3 at this time.

4.3 HRMbyDesign: Requested Amendments to the Municipal Government Act

- A draft letter to the Honourable Cecil Clarke and the Law Amendments Committee prepared by Mr. Fred Morley, Chair, Regional Plan Advisory Committee was circulated at this time.

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning, advised that Mr. Fred Morley, Chair of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee, has met with Ms. Jennifer Church, Managing Director, External and Corporate Affairs, in regard to the requested amendments to the Municipal Government Act.

MOVED BY Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Mr. Robert Batherson that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee approve the letter to the Law Amendments Committee with the following amendment: the last paragraph to read as follows: *"It is with the full support of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee that I request that the legislative changes to the Municipal Government Act being sought as a result of the HRMbyDesign initiative be approved."* MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee requested that the letter be addressed to the Honourable Cecil Clarke, (Minister of Justice), Chair of the Law Amendments Committee and copied to the Law Amendments Committee, the three party leaders, every MLA, the Mayor and Council of HRM and the Regional Plan Advisory Committee members.

Mr. Pettipas suggested a time for the letter to be sent to the Regional Plan Advisory Committee members when the issue moves forward to the Legislature.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Updated Checklist

Mr. Roger Wells distributed two handouts at this time.

Handout One - Template for Checklist

Mr. Wells indicated that the suggested changes made by the Regional Plan Advisory Committee at the July meeting, have been added to page 2 of the checklist.

MOVED BY Mr. Robert Batherson, seconded by Mr. Paul Pettipas that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee adopt the amended version of the checklist as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Handout Two - Checklist Criteria on Functional Plan

Mr. Wells advised that the suggested amendment made by the Regional Plan Advisory Committee at the July meeting has been included on page 5 of the Checklist Criteria.

MOVED BY Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee approve the amendment to the Criteria Checklist as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 Business Parks Functional Plan

Mr. Roger Wells advised that the information was presented to Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 9, 2008. There was considerable discussion held by Council resulting in a motion for a Supplementary Report. Council expressed concern with possible noise generation from future development in the northern area of Burnside on the east-facing slope between the power line and Highway 118. Council was also concerned that there had not been sufficient public consultation, particularly in areas such as Shubie Park, Lake Charles and Highfield Park. The Supplementary Report is expected to be before Council on September 2, 2008.

Councillor McCluskey commented that the (business park) land should be used for light industrial or commercial with no residential as the (business park) land is too scarce. She suggested the public meetings be in the areas where the people will get the noise and the traffic from the Business Parks. She suggested a buffer area of trees to mitigate any noise that may be generated from the parks.

Mr. Pettipas concurred that Business Park land is a scarce resource and it is not a good idea to mix in residential. He would like it made very clear that this Committee is adamant against using business park land for residential. Light industrial is light industrial. He further suggested caution in the placement of hotels.

Mr. Wells explained that there will be mandatory public consultation in order to transform the functional plan into the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Laws. Regional Council was reluctant to give the green light at this point as they would prefer to see more public consultation prior to providing approval in principle.

4.3 HRMbyDesign: Requested Amendments to the MGA

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Alternative Transit Options for the Burnside Business Park

This item was deferred until such time as Councillor Snow was in attendance to speak to the issue.

8.2 "HRMbyDesign Draft 2 - Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan"

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

8.3 Correspondence/Responses from Committee Members to Media and Members of the Public

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the agenda. See page 3.

9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the upcoming municipal and federal elections, the Committee requested that the October 15th meeting date be changed to Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant