

**REGIONAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 25, 2009**

PRESENT: Mr. Fred Morley, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee, Vice-Chair
Ms. Alison Baker
Ms. Margo Grant
Councillor Peter Lund
Mr. Floyd Dykeman
Ms. Cheryl Newcombe
Ms. Carole Pelletier
Mr. Paul Pettipas

ABSENT: Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Ms. Maya Warnock (regrets)
Mr. Robert Batherson (regrets)

STAFF: Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community
Planning
Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

The Chair noted that the Clerk's office has received a notice of resignation from Ms Maya Warnock along with her regrets for today's meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 21, 2009

Corrections: Page 4, 1st paragraph reads, "The Committee agreed with staff's concerns that . . ."; it should read, "The Committee acknowledged staff's concerns that . . .".

The second bullet, "A DVD and Map from Terrain Group, provide by Deputy Mayor Hendsbee . . .", should be under Item 5.1 not Item 5.2

MOVED By Ms. Cheryl Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the minutes of October 21, 2009 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

- Additions:
- 7.1 Election of Chair/Vice-Chair for the Regional Plan Advisory Committee's 2010 term (December 31, 2009 to November 30, 2010)
 - 7.2 CARSHARE Report (Verbal Update - David McCusker, Manager, Regional Transportation)

It was agreed that Item 7.2 would be dealt with after the approval of the Order of Business

- 7.3 Meeting Dates for 2010
- 7.4 Memorandum (Information Item) Amendments to Regional Plan, Regional Subdivision By-law and MPS and LUB Documents for Dartmouth and Planning Districts 14/17

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning advised the Committee that Item 3.1 was not meant to be discussed today. An information report was before the Committee members to give an update on the status of the project. A supplementary report will be brought back to the next meeting.

MOVED By Ms. Cheryl Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Lund, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

7.2 CARSHARE Report

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning reminded the Committee that on September 16, 2009. Ms. Pam Cooley, President, CARSHARE Halifax, had made a presentation to the Committee. She had explained the purpose of CARSHARE Halifax noting its success in other areas.

At that time, the Committee made a motion that a report come back to the Committee on HRM's plan to reduce the use of personal vehicles in the urban core of Halifax Dartmouth by employees of the HRM by exploring options such as CARSHARE Halifax. The report would also include information on the annual cost to HRM for taxis, rental/leased vehicles and parking.

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Regional Transportation gave a brief verbal update on the report expected of staff as the result of the above-mentioned motion. He noted that there was some merit in the CARSHARE program but HRM already has a similar. "Get Smart" was launched in April, 2009. Three smart cars are located at each of the following locations, the Eric Spicer Building on Mount Hope Avenue, Duke Tower and Alderney Gate. They are available for employees to use for their meetings.

Further he noted that HRM's "Get Smart" program would not present the challenges that a privately owned rental company would, i.e., insurance checks each time the car was taken out or drivers under the age of 24.

He advised that at the April 28, 2009 session of Council, Council defeated a motion to have staff bring report because they felt it would be an inefficient use of staff's time because HRM's system was just under way at that time and it seemed to be working well.

Mr. McCusker advised that staff are also looking at the relaxed parking parking for shared vehicles similar to what Vancouver, B.C. is doing. It is part of HRM's parking strategy and a policy is being pursued.

Staff is still working on the annual cost to HRM for taxis, rental/leased vehicles and parking.

Mr. Floyd Dykeman entered the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Mr. McCusker responded noted that a by-law would need to be generic in its designation

of shared parking spaces.

The Committee agreed that no further action is required at this time.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Project 01341 - Cost of Servicing Study and Requests to initiate Secondary Planning Strategies (Community Plan Amendment Requests)

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

6. REPORTS

6.1 Community Visioning - 2009-2009

- A staff report dated November 3, 2009 was before the Committee.

Mr. Wells advised the Committee that this is the second step in the process for the Visioning reports. He reminded the Committee that in the late spring, early summer there was a presentation from the three communities, Penhorn/Woodlawn, Spryfield, Middle-Upper Sackville and Lucasville. He advised the committee that the final report and the staff report is now before the Committee. Out of this exercise, three types of centres were established, Suburban Local (Middle - Upper Sackville and Lucasville), Suburban District (Spryfield), and Urban Local (Penhorn - Woodlawn).

Mr. David Lane, Senior Planner, Community Development gave a brief high-level overview of the report. He introduced the other members, who also worked on the project. He noted that the report before the Committee today is the same report that had been presented in May and July with only a few minor changes. He noted that community volunteers with the guidance and aid of staff members from various departments were responsible for drafting the report.

He noted that common themes were identified throughout the three centres. Where people lived, where they worked/how they got to work and where they spent their leisure time were the focus. Mr. Lane indicated that the action plans are not included in the reports. The details will be flushed out once Council has approved the report in principle. He further noted that established neighborhoods are also important to all centres. There is a very strong indication of what people value in their community. They want to see their neighborhoods protected but also want to be able to identify opportunities for growth in a predictable manner.

Ms. Cheryl Newcombe retired from the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Staff are hopeful that these documents will be relied on to guide the future visioning exercises. The implementation process will begin this winter.

Discussion ensued with the following questions and concerns addressed by staff:

- visioning groups will work with the Halifax School Board and other stakeholders to maintain the schools in each of the areas
- the progress or the lack of progress of these visioning processes will be reported to Council on a regular basis
- the visioning document establishes criteria for future development for which watershed studies will be completed
- staff are managing the expectations of the public by identifying short term, medium term and long term goals of HRM within the visioning process
- the various business units have been made aware of the impact the implementation of the vision plans will have on their budgets
- Community Development will be visiting the next group of visioning communities and doing some training with volunteers before the visioning process will start in their areas
- it was suggested that memberships of each visioning groups and the chronological listing of the meetings held be added as supplementary information to the report to give the document credibility.
- visioning exercises could be started in Woodside earlier than Porters Lake and Tantallon because a watershed study is not needed for Woodside
- while the watershed study is being completed in Porters Lake and Tantallon, groundwork by Community Development can be started.
- future visioning reports will be more consistent that they have in the past

MOVED BY Mr. Paul Pettipas, seconded by Mr. Floyd Dykeman that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee recommend that Regional council endorse, in principle, the Community Visions for Penhorn/Woodlawn, Spryfield, and Middle, Upper Sackville and Lucasville, attached hereto the staff report dated November 3, 2009 as Attachments A, B, and C, and direct the Visions proceed to the Implementation phase and be considered as an added framework to guide future budgetary and business planning decisions in Halifax Regional Municipality. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

7. ADDED ITEMS

7.1 Election of Chair/Vice-Chair for the Regional Plan Advisory Committee's 2010 term (December 31, 2009 to November 30, 2010)

The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next scheduled meeting of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee meeting dated December 16, 2009.

7.2 CARSHARE Report

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See Page 4.

7.3 Meeting Dates for 2010

The Committee acknowledged the meeting dates for 2010. Mr. Paul Pettipas suggested that when needed, his meeting rooms in Bayers Lake are available for meetings. The Committee agreed that the Media Room in City Hall is not conducive to a good meeting because of the small size and the poor air quality of the room.

7.4 Memorandum (information Item) amendments to Regional Plan, Regional Subdivision By-law and MPS and LUB Documents for Dartmouth and Planning Districts 14/17

8. A memo dated November 24, 2009 from Mr. Austin French, Manager, Planning Services was before the Committee.

Mr. Kurt Pyle, Acting Supervisor, Planning Applications, indicated that these two parcels of land should have been included in the industrial regional plan when the industrial plan was approved. He noted that this was only a housekeeping matter.

In response to a question from the Committee, he responded that the difference between the lands that the Committee are dealing with now and the lands in Bayer Lake is that HRM owns the lands in question, whereas HRM did not own the lands in Bayers Lake.

He advised the Committee that staff would be taking a report to Council and suggested that the report could come to the Committee before going to Council.

No further action was required at this time.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - December 16, 2009

Next meeting will be held on December 16, 2009 at the Helen Creighton Room, 2nd Floor Alderney Gate Library from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Barbara Coleman

Legislative Assistant