

**PENINSULA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 5, 2007**

PRESENT:

Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck, Vice-Chair
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Patrick Murphy

STAFF:

Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 8, 2007

MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the minutes of January 8, 2007, be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

12.1 Correspondence from Alan Ruffman dated January 30, 2007

Deletion:

8.2.1 Variance No. 13422: Appeal of the Development Officer's decision to approve an application for a Variance - 1211 Queen Street, Halifax

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet

4.1.1 Public Participation - Halifax Commons Task Force

C A Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant, with attached Information Report dated January 6, 2006; January 11, 2005 Regional Council minutes extract, and December 13, 2004 Peninsula Community Council minutes extract were before Community Council.

Councillor Fougere commented that staff were to bring a Terms of Reference for a Halifax Commons Task Force to Council within the 2006/07 budget year, which ends in less than eight weeks. She indicated that this matter will be raised as an added item at the next session of Regional Council.

4.1.2 Presentation re: Noisy Vehicles in Halifax

C An Information Report dated December 12, 2006 was before Community Council.

Councillor Sloane indicated that at the next session of Regional Council, she will be requesting that HRM request the Province to make amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act*. She requested that this item remain on the status sheet.

4.1.3 Mitchell's Enviro Depot update

Councillor Sloane updated that a mediation was held on this matter, and the owner has agreed to sell the building. She noted that \$150,000 of the sale proceeds will go to HRM for outstanding demolition costs, and back taxes. Councillor Sloane further advised that the fence at the back of the property must be repaired and for sale signs must be posted on the property. She requested that this item remain on the status sheet until the property transaction has closed.

4.1.4 Correspondence from Westmoor Co-Op Ltd. dated March 4, 2006 re: Kenneth Walker Field

C An email response from staff, with a minutes extract from the April 10, 2006 Peninsula Community Council meeting and correspondence from the Westmoor Co-Op Ltd. dated March 4, 2006 were before Community Council.

The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant write a letter to the Westmoor Co-Op to request alternative suggestions for the field name. This item will be deleted from the status sheet.

4.1.5 Closure of HRM Private Lane - June Street to Princess Place

Councillor Sloane requested an update on this matter for the March 5, 2007 meeting. This item to remain on the status sheet.

4.1.6 CN Property Maintenance

No information received. This item to remain on the status sheet.

5. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** - None

6. **MOTIONS OF RESCISSION** - None

7. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

7.1 **Building Communities Capital Fund Allocation**

- C A minutes extract from the December 11, 2006 Peninsula Community Council meeting was before Community Council.
- C This matter was deferred from the December 11, 2006 Peninsula Community Council meeting.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Uteck, seconded by Councillor Sloane, that the remaining \$65,000 of the 2006/07 Building Communities Fund for Peninsula Districts 11, 12, 13, and 14 be allocated in the following manner:

**\$30,000 - Upgrades to the Isleville Street playground;
\$20,000 - Upgrade of the Tennis Courts on the South Commons; and
\$15,000 - Lighting for the outdoor Lacrosse Box at Gorsebrook Field.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. HEARINGS

8.1 Public Hearings - None

8.2 Appeal Hearings

8.2.1 Variance No. 13465: Appeal of the Development Officer's decision to refuse an application for a Variance - 1538 LeMarchant Street, Halifax

This appeal was withdrawn by the Appellant and this item was deleted from the agenda.

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9.1 Correspondence - None

9.2 Petitions - None

9.3 Presentations - None

10. REPORTS

10.1 Staff Reports - None

10.2 District 12 PAC Reports - None

11. MOTIONS - None

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Correspondence from Alan Ruffman dated January 30, 2007

The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant refer this correspondence to Transportation and Public Works (TPW) staff and inquire whether any action has been taken on this problem, and whether the property is HRM or commercially owned.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Marek Roland-Mieszkowski, Halifax

Dr. Roland-Mieszkowski indicated that the information report addressed under status sheet item 4.1.2 re: Noisy Vehicles in Halifax, was prompted by a presentation he made to Peninsula Community Council late last year. Dr. Roland-Mieszkowski commented that the information report did not address a number of areas, including the following:

- C The harmful effects of noisy vehicles to pedestrians, children and tourists;
- C The elimination of straight pipes;
- C Restriction of "boom cars";
- C Solutions were not addressed.

Dr. Roland-Mieszkowski indicated that he believes HRM's noise by-law to be insufficient and must be quantitative. He commented that the report claims that enforcement is difficult and equipment is expensive, however, the true scientific point of view was not represented in the report and lower cost equipment is available. Dr. Roland-Mieszkowski advised that he met with the Mayor on this issue, and the Mayor indicated he would raise this issue with the Province.

Councillor Sloane indicated she will follow up with the Mayor.

Ms. Janet Shotwell, Halifax

Ms. Shotwell indicated she is interested in finding out how to influence members of Council if there is an issue she feels strongly about, and inquired whether there is a minimum number of signatures required on a petition. She also inquired whether there is a minimum number of signatures required on a petition. She also inquired about surveying residents to obtain feedback on issues.

Ms. Shotwell indicated that the discounted bus service to university students has been very successful. She proposed that all HRM residents should have free transit services, or have the opportunity to pay a similar discounted rate as the students are charged. She indicated this would be good for families, and would encourage more residents to use transit services.

Ms. Shotwell also proposed having ferry rates reduced for non-rush hour times. She noted that this would encourage more people to go to Dartmouth.

The Chair clarified that there is no minimum number of signatures required for a petition. She indicated that any petition can be presented to your local area Councillor to be presented at Council.

The Chair also clarified that the professional opinion of staff is also a consideration of members of Council when making a decision on an issue. She further clarified that surveys are not commonly undertaken, as there are always a large number of issues on the Council agenda for consideration at each meeting.

The Chair clarified that HRM does not have the operating man power, nor the infrastructure, to operate a free transit services. She noted that HRM offers one of the most cost effective transit systems in North America.

Ms. Danuta Roland-Mieszkowski, Halifax

Ms. Roland-Mieszkowski noted concern that no solutions were proposed in the information report regarding noisy vehicles in Halifax. She indicated that this is a serious problem affecting children, those living in downtown Halifax, and also affecting the tourism industry. Ms. Roland-Mieszkowski noted that HRM has the means to find a solution to the problem, it just has to be more creative with solutions. She encouraged members to send a strong message on this issue to prevent this problem from getting worse.

Mr. Graeme Hicks, Halifax

Mr. Hicks indicated that there are a number of new traffic lights for pedestrian cross walks throughout HRM, such as the Summer Street/Bell Road intersection, and on Barrington Street, near the Dockyards, noting that some only allow ten seconds to cross the street. He also noted that some pedestrians are unaware that you have to push a button to activate the signal. Mr. Hicks noted concern with regard to crossing a busy street in ten seconds, and noted that if the equipment cannot be changed to allow more time, the rules should be changed. He also inquired about pedestrian sensors at cross walks.

The Chair clarified that Council chose not to have the pedestrian sensor piece installed with the new pedestrian cross walks, as the technology is too expensive. She commented on the need for public education, and clarified that Council has requested TPW staff to undertake a public relations campaign to educate about cross walk safety.

Councillor Murphy indicated he would follow up with TPW staff regarding the cross walk at Barrington Street and Devonshire Avenue, near the Dockyards.

Councillor Sloane indicated she will follow up with TPW staff regarding the Summer Street and Bell Road intersection, noting that she has had other complaints regarding the cross walk in that area.

Ms. Beverly Miller, Halifax

Ms. Miller suggested, with regard to the information report on noisy vehicles in Halifax discussed earlier in the meeting, that staff look at legislation put in place regarding this problem by other cities, to determine best practices.

Ms. Miller commented on idling Metro Transit buses in the South End, in particular at the LaMarchant terminal. She advised that she spoke with several bus drivers about turning off the buses while waiting at stops for a few minutes, but the drivers were reluctant to turn the buses off and provided poor excuses not to. Ms. Miller indicated that she spoke with the bus drivers recently, and in October 2006 when the weather was much warmer and there was no need to idle the buses to maintain heat or keep the buses from freezing.

The Chair indicated that she believes there is a Metro Transit policy regarding idling, and requested that the Legislative Assistant request a copy of the policy from Mr. Paul McDaniel, General Manager, Metro Transit, for the information of Community Council. She also requested that the Legislative Assistant bring the issue of buses idling in this location to the attention of Mr. McDaniel.

Deputy Mayor Uteck indicated that she will also follow up this matter with Mr. McDaniel, noting that the formulation of the bio-diesel used by Metro Transit has been changed so as not to freeze so quickly.

Councillor Sloane raised concern with regard to the cost of painting and cleaning drapes at City Hall, for a brief visit from the Governor General later in February. She indicated that there are other maintenance issues that need to be addressed in the building, such as air quality, and that painting and drape cleaning were completed last year.

The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant follow up with the CAO's office on the protocol of the visit from the Governor General. Councillor Sloane also requested that it be clarified which budget will cover the cost of the painting and drape cleaning.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Peninsula Community Council will be held on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant