

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES May 6, 2003

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Harry McInroy
Councillors: Steve Streach
Gary Hines
Ron Cooper
Brian Warshick (10:45 a.m.)
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Jim Smith
Jerry Blumenthal
Dawn Sloane
Sue Uteck
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Diana Whalen
Stephen Adams (1:55 p.m.)
Brad Johns (11:10 a.m.)
Robert Harvey
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Councillors: Keith Colwell
John Cunningham
Linda Mosher
Len Goucher

STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 25, 2003

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the minutes of March 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 25, 2003 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the Order of Business, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. GATEWAY/COMMUNITY GREETING SIGNAGE

- A report prepared for Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer, dated April 29, 2003, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Regional Transportation, presented mock-ups of the proposed signage which would be placed on the 100 series highways on the borders of HRM and at the entrance to communities within HRM. He noted the community entrance signs will be installed in conjunction with the boundary definition process that is underway. Once communities are defined, the signs will be installed. Mr. McCusker noted the signs come under the jurisdiction of the Traffic Authority.

In response to Councillor Hines regarding retention of individuality of certain communities, Mr. McCusker advised the signs have a functional purpose of providing direction to tourists but there is a space on the bottom of the sign that would allow for community identification slogans. He advised the default tab under any community sign would be "Welcome to our Community" and if a community wanted a more personalized message it would cost an additional \$150.00 per sign, noting there would need to be a degree of community support for a slogan to show it was representative of a community.

Councillor Smith noted there are many small communities in urban areas and asked if signs would be installed in these areas. In response, Mr. McCusker advised it is the intention to tie the signage into the emergency community definition to make the distinction between a community and a neighbourhood, noting neighbourhoods would not be identified with this type of signage.

It was noted there is a "Way Finding" program which identifies top visitor attractions and

signage will be used to direct visitors to those locations.

In response to Councillor Blumenthal regarding signage identifying historic area, Council was advised the Heritage Advisory Committee is establishing Heritage Conservation Districts which will have their own signage.

In response to Councillor Cooper regarding the events messages and how often they will be changed, Mr. McCusker advised it is the intent that these would be changed once or twice a year to promote major events.

In response to Councillor Streach, Council was advised it was being recommended that the signs would be placed at the actual physical boundaries to HRM.

MOVED by Councillor Sarto, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council endorse the plan of the HRM Traffic Authority to install highway signs at the entry points to HRM and at community boundaries as described in the report dated April 29, 2003. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

- A report from the Chair of the District Boundaries Advisory Committee, dated April 8, 2003, was before Council.
- The report was recommending "*Regional Council endorse the 20 District proposal recommended by the District Boundaries Review Committee as outlined in Appendix "A" of the report dated April 8, 2003 and direct staff to forward same to the Utility and Review Board for approval*".

Mr. Paul Hyland, Chair, District Boundaries Advisory Committee, presented the report to Council providing an overview of the proposed boundaries for the proposed districts.

Councillor Streach noted there was a drastic change being suggested for District 1. He noted the proposed boundary was vastly different from what was shown to the public.

MOVED by Councillor Hines, seconded by Councillor Smith that this Council submit an application to the Utility and Review Board to maintain the status quo (23 Districts) until the next scheduled review in 2006 as required by the Municipal Government Act, and further that Mayor Kelly forward a letter to Minister Peter Christie urging his support of this recommendation to the Utility and Review Board.

Councillor Rankin expressed concern with the motion, noting there was public consultation on the question of 20 seats and Council accepted that number. The Councillor noted the public

relied on the proposal as put forward and if they had no concerns they did not attend the public meetings. He noted the new document was radically changed from what was put out to the public and stated the URB should have the proposal that was presented to the public when making their recommendations.

Councillor Streach received clarification that the next boundary review is not required until 2006 under the MGA but the URB had recommended that the municipality undertake a review before the 2004 election. The Councillor advised he had received no calls stating there was a problem with the size of Council nor does he recall that the direction was to be for 20 seats.

Councillor Blumenthal also expressed concern that the maps being presented are vastly different from those presented to the public.

Councillor Cooper stated he would support the motion, expressing concern that there are significant changes affecting communities of interest in the proposal before Council.

Deputy Mayor McInroy left the chair at 1:41 p.m. with Councillor Harvey assuming the Chair.

Councillor Warshick spoke in support of the motion, noting there was no report or information provided on how the determination was made on 20 districts.

Councillor Sarto, speaking in favour of the motion, expressed concern that the suggested boundaries has District 7 fractured and the Woodlawn area bisected.

Councillor Smith stated there are issues with the proposed boundaries in that there is a disproportionate amount of voters in the urban and rural areas. The Councillor stated there should be voter parity. He stated he was not in favour of moving to 20 districts.

Councillor Walker stated he did not support the motion stating the present districts don't fit the solution. The Councillor noted the new census will not be undertaken until 2006; therefore, the same census information used at this time will be used at that time. The Councillor stated if Council accepted the report there would be something for the URB to consider when making a decision.

Councillor Whalen stated she did not support the motion, noting there would still be opportunity for representation at the URB for those areas where there is difficulty.

Councillor Blumenthal assumed the Chair at 1:59 p.m.

Councillor Harvey noted the committee had been given a mandate to consult with the public and come back with a recommendation on an appropriate number of districts. Council accepted 20 and gave direction to the committee to adjust boundaries and come back with

a final report.

Deputy Mayor McInroy resumed the chair at 2:06 p..m.

Councillor Uteck stated the final report is changed from what was first presented to the public.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Deputy Municipal Clerk