

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FEBRUARY 10, 1998**

PRESENT:

Mayor Walter Fitzgerald
Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin
Councillors: Bill Dooks
Gordon R. Snow
David Hendsbee
Ron Cooper
Jack Greenough
Condo Sarto
Bruce Hetherington
Clint Schofield
John Cunningham
Jerry Blumenthal
Larry Uteck
Howard Epstein
Russell Walker
Ron Hanson
Stephen Adams
Barry Barnet
Bob Harvey
Peter Kelly
Jack Mitchell

REGRETS:

Councillors Harry McInroy
Graham L. Downey
Bill Stone

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Jane Nauss, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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Mayor Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. **REGIONAL OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Ms. Carol Macomber, Priority and Policy, Project Manager, addressed Committee of the Whole, noting that the process towards a Plan is one third complete, and that today's presentation would provide a general overview of the process, and to receive feedback from Council. Members of the Team involved in the process, and their responsibilities were introduced; Carol Macomber (Priority and Planning) Project Manager; John Charles, Outdoor Recreation; Tony Blouin (Priority and Planning), Environmentally Sensitive Areas; Jacqueline Hamilton (Community Services), Cultural Landscapes; Blair Blakeney (Community Services), Active Recreation; Robert Jahncke, Trails and Corridors, Steve King (Works and Natural Services), Stewardship; Betty MacDonald (Priority and Planning), Economic Opportunities; and, Jan Skora (Community Services), Land Protection/Acquisition.

Through the use of overheads (copies of which had been distributed), Ms. Macomber reviewed the following: Our Assets, Why the Plan was initiated; Project Scope; Guiding Principle of the Plan; Project Objectives; Project Design; Team Design; Budget; Public Participation and Consultation, and ,Combining Team Work.

Mr. Blair Blakeney, Community Services, reviewed the results, through the use of the following overheads: Policy; Sites requiring protection identified; Implementation Procedures; Operating and Management Guidelines; Economic Development Products; Partnerships; Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.

Following a ten minute recess, to provide an opportunity for Council to discuss various aspects of the Plan with members of the Team, the meeting reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Dooks left the meeting at this point in time.

Ms. Jacqueline Hamilton, Community Services, through the use of overheads, reviewed the following: Benefits: How the results will be used; Overall Benefits; More Effective Delivery of Services; Economic Development: Tourism, Businesses & Quality of Life; and, Healthy Communities.

Ms. Macomber reviewed the next steps involved in the process, noting the following:

- C Implementation of six month work plans: February to July;
- C A mapping session to identify lands where it should be requested that current uses not be changed pending completion of the plan (scheduled for February 12, 1998);
- C Participation in the Provincial Integrated Resource Management Plan (scheduled for February 25, 1998);
- C Communication with the public.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

- C Councillor Kelly enquired on the time frame for the overall strategy, to which Ms. Macomber advised it was anticipated the process should be completed by late 1999.
- C Councillor Kelly enquired on costs beyond the proposed time frame. Ms. Macomber advised there were no major funds budgeted other than the expenditure of \$45,000 to complete an inventory of all HRM owned land. In response to a comment from the Councillor on approximately 100 parcels of land that had been acquired, Mr. Blakeney advised this resulted from parkland dedication through the subdivision process (involved no cost to the municipality). Estimates over the past number of months to purchase properties (Mossman property, Starr Manufacturing property, etc.) approximate \$1 million to date.
- C Councillor Hendsbee referenced the 5% parkland dedication enquiring if a policy had been developed for the distribution of the funds; from where are the funds being contributed; and with respect to parkland dedication, the Councillor suggested that staff look at the general community rather than a subdivision in isolation. Councillor Hendsbee also suggested the Regional Trails Project be revisited.
- In response, Ms. Macomber advised that a policy was not being developed. Councillor Hendsbee stated that Council should bring the Regional Trails Project forward again.
- C Councillor Harvey requested further information on the Provincial Integrated Resource Management Plan taking place on February 25, 1998. Ms. Macomber advised she understood that information on same had been previously forwarded to Council, however, Council was encouraged to contact her after the meeting if they were interested in attending, or had queries on same.
- C Councillor Mitchell suggested parcels of land be sold as the municipality could use the income.
- C Councillor Snow suggested that properties be identified ("dead property") in each District for a general land sale. In response, Ms. Macomber stated that although a specific policy has not been developed on this aspect, discussions are leading towards the Team moving in this direction. It was noted that the Councillor made a valid point, however, and that the Team will review this recommendation.
- C In response to general comments made by Council, Ms. Macomber stated that the use of teams in this process provides for an effective means to implement the plan; further, this provides an indication of how staff can work on several

projects.

- C In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper as to what the Team was basing future projections on, Ms. Macomber advised through research and data from other jurisdictions.
- C In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cooper if it is anticipated the time frame for a Regional Planning Strategy would fall in line with this process, Ms. Macomber advised that a report would be tabled with Council in the near future.

Mayor Fitzgerald and Council expressed their appreciation to those involved in this process.

2. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillors Hetherington and Schofield to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vi Carmichael
MUNICIPAL CLERK