

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

June 17, 2008

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Kelly
Deputy Mayor Stephen D. Adams
Councillors: Steve Streach
Krista Snow
Harry McInroy
Bill Karsten
Jackie Barkhouse
Jim Smith
Mary Wile
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Tim Outhit
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS: Councillors: David Hendsbee
Gloria McCluskey
Andrew Younger
Sue Uteck

STAFF: Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee of the Whole was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None

3. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 07-417 - PUBLIC ART COMMISSION, NOVA SCOTIA FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL, HALIFAX GRAND PARADE SQUARE

- C An e-mail dated June 11, 2008 from Mr. Paul McKinnon, Executive Director, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, was before Council.
- C A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.
- C A staff report dated May 1, 2008 was before Council.
- C A report from the Heritage Advisory Committee dated April 28, 2008 was before Council.
- C A list containing seventeen (17) names of Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers was circulated at this time.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development, provided a brief background on the matter and introduced Ms. Mary Angela Munro, Area Coordinator, Cultural Affairs, Community Development, who presented the report assisted by Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, Infrastructure and Asset Management. Ms. Munro advised that Cody Lee Stephenson, members of the design group and members of the Fallen Peace Officers Association, were in attendance to answer any questions.

Councillor Streach entered the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Councillor Murphy and Deputy Mayor Adams entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that:

- C All members of Council were in support of the monument.
- C Several members of Council questioned the placement of the monument in the Grand Parade as the monument is intended to be in memory of all provincial peace officers including park wardens, fisheries officers and prison guards (who receive their authority through the Police Act).
- C The Provincial Legislature grounds may be the best location for the placement of a provincial monument. Many other jurisdictions across Canada have located similar monuments on their Legislature grounds.

Councillor Murphy commented that Nova Scotia's provincial legislature is space restricted and does not have the public prominence that other city legislatures have.

The Grand Parade is a more publicly visited area and is a suitable location for the memorial.

Chief of Halifax Regional Police, Frank Beazley, advised that the police station (including the cells) used to be housed in the basement of City Hall . There is a very long history connecting peace officers and their service to City Hall and the parade square. Prior to a municipal police force, the peace keepers were the military police who are also historically connected to the Grand Parade.

- C Concern was expressed that the monument would be covered (blocked) by the stage/stage curtains during special events on the Grand Parade and blocking of the monument in any way would be disrespectful.

Mr. Paul Dunphy advised that members of the Fallen Peace Officers Association have been apprised of the staging issue and have responded that having a temporary stage placed in front of the monument would not be considered disrespectful. The company that installs/dismantles the staging confirmed that there would be sufficient space around the monument for them to do their work.

In response to other possible locations on the grand parade for the monument, Ms. Munro explained that the artists were taken on a tour of the site and the monument was designed for this location. The site was chosen for its historic military background. If another monument were requested for the Grand Parade, that request would have to go through a similar technical review process with the final decision made by Council.

Councillor Snow commented that although she supports a monument for fallen Peace Officers she finds it difficult to support this proposal when Council was not given the opportunity to support a monument to Firefighters. She would support two monuments, one for Fallen Peace Officers and one for Firefighters, and suggested that they be placed on either side of the Cenotaph, or; that this monument be placed in another location (by the Town Clock, in the Public Gardens, at Sullivans Pond or Alderney). Residents want a skating rink on the Grand Parade. She questioned how the monument may affect capacity for an outdoor skating rink. She added that she would not want the monument, or other art, to feel cluttered in the Grand Parade.

Mr. Bigelow explained that the Firefighters had suggested an object, not a monument, and that they did not follow a process that allowed them to arrive at Council. The object was eventually located at the Fire Station on University Avenue. Mr. Dunphy added that a competitive process with a general call for proposals is the preferred method. He suggested that Council could invite the Firefighters to follow a similar process.

Speaking on behalf of Councillor Hendsbee, Councillor Snow inquired if the monument could be positioned to hide the electrical box located in the Grand Parade.

In response to questions on whether other areas of the grand parade were considered for the placement of this monument, Mr. Bigelow explained that the design of the Grand Parade is very axial and that placing anything of scale there throws off the axial arrangement. Staff and the artists felt that a monument of this size needed to be on axis or the placement would detract from the monument. Mr. Dunphy added that other sites on the Grand Parade had been considered, however; they presented security concerns (late at night). He advised that the electric box will be addressed either by landscaping or painting.

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Wile that Regional Council:

- 1. Award RFP#07-417, Public Art Commission, Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers Memorial, Halifax Grand Parade Square to the highest scoring proponent, The Collaborative Group led by Cody Lee Stephenson, in the amount of \$137,027.91 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account CDG 00487 - Public Art Repair - New, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the staff report dated May 1, 2008.**
- 2. Approve the recommended site for the memorial as specified in the report dated May 1, 2008.**

Ms. Munro responded to Councillor Meade that additional names may be added to the monument as the bricks can be manipulated and changed over time. Councillor Meade suggested that staff contact the Nova Scotia Genealogy Association for assistance in obtaining more names/documentation.

Councillor Fougere commented that placing the monument front and centre in the Grand Parade is a place of honour for those who have served the public and shows our respect for their service in this province.

Councillor Sloane suggested the monument be placed in its own designated area in a place of honour. She also expressed concern with the plans to redesign the parade square which may necessitate moving the monument.

Councillor Mosher entered the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Councillor Karsten commented that HRM may outgrow the Parade Square for special events as there were approximately 5000 persons in the area for the New Year's Eve

celebrations.

Mr. Dunphy advised that as part of the Grand Parade/Province House Public Lands Study, it was determined that the northside retaining wall has to be rebuilt which will be the trigger for the redesign of the Parade Square. The impact on the area for special events is not an issue as it will improve with the redesign.

Councillor Harvey commented that his understanding from the Cultural Advisory Committee is that this monument should perhaps be the last large monument placed in the Grand Parade as there is a limit to how many can appropriately fit in that space.

Councillor Sloane advised that the Heritage Advisory Committee decided the Grand Parade was not the proper site for this monument. Most monuments are placed in a distinct location, usually at the origin of the issue, therefore; perhaps it could be located at the Police Headquarters on Gottingen Street. Councillor Sloane explained that she has donated funds for lunch hour music to be provided on the small stage in the Grand Parade which is located in the same area as the proposed site for the monument. A monument should be forefront but it will be obstructed by the musical events. She suggested that the electrical box be placed underground.

Councillor Sloane requested that the motion be split.

Recommendation 1

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Wile that Regional Council award RFP#07-417, Public Art Commission, Nova Scotia Fallen Peace Officers Memorial, Halifax Grand Parade Square to the highest scoring proponent, The Collaborative Group led by Cody Lee Stephenson, in the amount of \$137,027.91 (net HST included) with funding from Capital Account CDG 00487 - Public Art Repair - New, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the staff report dated May 1, 2008. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Recommendation 2

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Wile that Regional Council approve the recommended site for the memorial as specified in the report dated May 1, 2008. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

June 17, 2008

Ms. Julia Horncastle
Acting Municipal Clerk