



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 14, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Patty Cuttell, Chair
Councillor Trish Purdy, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Sam Austin
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Lindell Smith – Parental Leave Accommodation

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini
Councillor Wayne Mason

STAFF: Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation
Elise Martino, Solicitor
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 20, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the minutes of April 20, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Purdy requested that Item 11 – Public Participation take place immediately before Item 10.3 – Presentations.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Austin, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and circulated for items: 10.3.3 and 13.3.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations

10.3.1 Cycling Without Age Program Expansion

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request to present dated July 25, 2023
- Presentation dated September 14, 2023

- Handout dated September 12, 2023

Peter Zimmer and Susan Cook gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report exploring the expansion of the Cycling Without Age program to Musquodoboit Harbour, including staff resources, budget allocation, and insurance.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3.2 Sir Sandford Fleming Cottage Rehabilitation - Friends of Sir Sandford Fleming Park Society

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request to present dated August 4, 2023
- Presentation dated September 14, 2023
- Handout dated September 14, 2023

Diane Mackie and John MacManus, Friends of the Sir Sandford Fleming Park Society gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

The Chair noted that a motion to explore funding the renovations of Sir Sandford Fleming Cottage in the 2024/25 Budget had been made at Regional Council.

10.3.3 Halifax Wanderers Grounds Venue

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Request to present dated August 25, 2023
- Presentation dated September 14, 2023
- Correspondence from William Breckenbridge, Allen B. Robertson, Rebecca Jamieson and Chris Beaumont, Andrew Iloy, Peggy Smith, Kyle Findlay, Trevor Batson, Laura Woodworth, Dr. Fay Cohen, Kyle Matthews, Janet M. Stevenson, Pat Wiggan, Judith Cabrita, Ben Ur, Lesley Anna Patten, Paul MacKinnon, Karla Nicholson, Sue Uteck, Joe Morrison, Dr. Robert Strang, John McCabe, Alison Roop, Brian Posavad, Ryan MacIsaac, Joe McGuinness, Damon Kestle, Glenn Bowie, Mark McFarland, Jamie McGinnis, Jonathan Hammond, Emma Parkington, Jessie Burgins, David Campbell, Lindsay MacAskill, Ken Bagnell, Dr. John Gillis, Max Blanchard, Jill Shlossberg, Howard Epstein, Robert Wickstrom, and Paul Gostling

Derek Martin, President & Founder, Halifax Wanderers Football Club gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Maggie MacDonald, Executive Director, Parks and Recreation responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee. MacDonald noted that staff had been directed to explore further planning around the Wanderers block through the Halifax Common Master Plan, and that staff could return to a future meeting of the Committee or Regional Council with a motion to explore the financial aspects of developing a sports stadium.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Howard Epstein, Halifax spoke in support of the recommendation for staff report to establish the Woodill Heritage Conservation District as a resident of the area. Epstein further spoke to their role as a member of the Friends of the Halifax Common, noted that they were not in support of the proposal to use the Wanderers Grounds as a permanent sports venue and that doing so would be contrary to the 2017 staff recommendation on the use of the grounds, and concerns with amateur leagues being excluded from using the space.

David Bentley, Halifax spoke about their concerns with the proposal for a permanent sports venue on the Wanderers Grounds, noting that it was a historic site that should be protected by the city. Bentley highlighted that a for-profit soccer stadium on public property next to the Public Gardens was inappropriate, and suggested that Saint Mary's University would be an appropriate space for a permanent sports venue.

Trevor Batson, District 12 spoke about concerns with the inaccessibility of the Wanderers Grounds to other sports leagues, the economic benefit of the current location, and suggested that if a permanent sports venue was pursued, it should be privately funded, with its use should be extended to amateur leagues.

Vince Calderhead, Halifax spoke about the importance of the Halifax Common land maintaining complete public access, and that a sports stadium would be inconsistent with the nature of the creation of the Commons. Calderhead suggested that the Committee either dismiss the proposal and use Saint Mary's University or defer deciding on the proposal until there was sufficient public consultation.

Dusan Soudek, Halifax spoke in support of the recommendation for staff report to establish the Woodill Heritage Conservation District as a resident of the area, and the importance of protecting heritage areas in the city.

Denton Froese, Treasurer of the Wanderers Grounds Lawn Bowling Club noted the positive, supportive relationship they have had with the Wanderers Soccer Team, and broader positive impacts of sports.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

13. REPORTS

13.1 STAFF – NONE

13.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13.3 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13.3.1 Woodill Heritage Conservation District

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated August 23, 2023
- Correspondence from Peggy Cameron, Andrea Arbic, Margo Grant, Brian Yee and John Foss, Lesley Barnes, Chloe Walls, Ian Reilly, Holly Foxall, Claire Dykhuis and Doyle Lahey, Katherine Robertson and Richard Nelson, S. Dale MacLennan, and Dusan Soudek

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report reviewing the heritage value of the Woodill area for the purpose of establishing a new Woodill Heritage Conservation District or to include the Woodill area as an extension of Creighton's Field Heritage Conservation District as identified in the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. MOTIONS – NONE

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 19, 2023

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Annie Sherry
Legislative Assistant