



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 20, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason, Chair
Councillor Sam Austin, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor Steve Craig
Councillor Dave Hendsbee
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS:

STAFF: Brad Anguish, Director of Parks & Recreation
Claire Gillivan, Solicitor
Liam MacSween, 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 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Wayne Mason, Chair called the meeting to order The Chair called the meeting to order in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 18, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee.

THAT the minutes of May 18, 2017 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 May 18, 2017 - Basic Income Nova Scotia re: Support for the Institution of a Basic Income for Nova Scotia

The following documentation was before the Standing Committee:

- A Councillor Request for consideration form dated July 20, 2017
- Correspondence from Basic Income Nova Scotia dated May 18, 2017 re: Support for the Institution of a Basic Income for Nova Scotia

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee refer the correspondence from Basic Income Nova Scotia dated May 18, 2017 to staff for a report regarding the requests from Basic Income Nova Scotia.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 May 18, 2017 - Dave Rideout President and CEO of MetroWorks Employment Association re: Support for a community benefit clause as part of HRM's public procurement process

The following documentation was before the Standing Committee:

- A Councillor Request for consideration form dated July 20, 2017
- Correspondence from Dave Rideout, President and CEO of MetroWorks Employment Association re: Support for a community benefit clause

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee refer the correspondence dated May 26, 2017, from Dave Rideout, President and CEO, MetroWorks Employment Association, with respect to community benefit, and the HRM procurement process, to the cross departmental working group regarding procurement, for consideration in the report requested by Regional Council at their meeting of June 20/21, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 – NONE

10.2 Petitions – NONE

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 J.B. Kent Smith, President, Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs - Community Development Plan

The following documentation was before the Standing Committee:

- A report from Ekistics Plan and Design re: Musquodoboit Harbour Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs

Councillor Outhit joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

J.B. Kent Smith, President of the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs (MHACCCA), provided a presentation with respect to the Community Development Plan.

Councillor Mason thanked J. B. Kent Smith for the presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee.

In response to questions of clarification, Smith noted the following:

- The next steps for the Musquodoboit Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs will be to develop its newly formed Standing Committees and their respective Terms of Reference and Guidelines.
- The MHACCA does not expect the required \$30 to \$40 million in funding from other levels of government to provide a central water system for the area. The newly formed Infrastructure and Planning Standing Committee will be tasked with exploring options to ensure potable water is available in the downtown area as well as addressing wastewater concerns at the Sheet Harbour Hospital.

10.3.2 Sherry Donovan, CEO Canadian Home Builders' Association Nova Scotia – Pilot program for Licensing Contractors/Deed Transfer Taxes

Sherry Donovan, CEO of the Canadian Home Builders' Association Nova Scotia, (CHBANS) introduced Andrew Holley, former President and CEO and provided a presentation with respect to a Pilot Program for Licensing Contractors/Deed Transfer Taxes.

Councillor Mason thanked Sherry Donovan and Andrew Holley for their presentation and requested questions of clarification from members of the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee.

In response to questions of clarification, Donovan and Holley noted the following:

- The CHBANS views the Deed Transfer Tax as financial burden to homebuyers that creates a barrier to homeownership particularly among new homebuyers.
- The CHBANS suggests that the Deed Transfer tax be re-visited to allow for options for homebuyers in terms of how it is paid. This could mean waiving the Deed Transfer Tax for new home buyers or allowing it to be paid over a five-year period.
- The CHBANS would like to partner with the municipality to finalize the development of a licensing program for contractors as a consumer and industry protection measure.
- CHBANS has been working with national members and industry to compile figures with respect to the amount of "Under the Table" work being undertaken by unlicensed contractors in the Canadian Economy. The agency estimates that conservatively, one-third of home renovations are being conducted by unlicensed and uncertified contractors.
- There has been a great deal of support from industry for a licensing program as many consumer complaints are centred on the issue of poor workmanship.

Deputy Mayor Craig joined the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

11.1 May 18, 2017– Memorandum from the Director of Planning & Development/Chief Planner dated March 1, 2017 re: Current Approach to Wayfinding in the Halifax Regional Municipality

The following documentation was before the Committee:

- A Councillor request for consideration form dated July 20, 2017
- A staff information report dated March 1, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report outlining the staff and financial resources necessary to create and implement an integrated HRM Wayfinding Strategy considering the various programs outlined in the March 1, 2017 Information Report on the Current Approach to Wayfinding.

In response to a question of clarification, Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation noted that the scope of work for the staff report should include commentary on privately owned Recreation facilities and associated signage.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Halifax Partnership and Halifax Economic Growth Plan 2016-21 Update

The following was before the committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 30, 2017

Ron Hanlon, President and CEO, Halifax Partnership and Ian Munro, Chief Economist, Halifax Partnership provided a presentation with respect to the Halifax Economic Growth Plan 2016-21 Update.

Deputy Mayor Craig left the meeting 11:56 a.m.

In response to a question of clarification, Ron Hanlon stated that the Halifax Partnership did not meet its goal with respect to attracting and retaining international students due to a delay in provincial funding. On a go forward basis, the initiative is on track, and the Halifax Partnership is satisfied with its progress.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Standing Committee receive the April 30, 2017 staff report and forward it to Regional Council for information

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Mason

“TAKE NOTICE, that at the next regular meeting of the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee, I intend to introduce a motion that the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report regarding options and financial implications to enhanced support for protection of heritage buildings in HRM, that shall include consultation with the Heritage Advisory Committee as appropriate, and include but not be limited to the following considerations:

- 1. Tax relief - That registered heritage properties could receive an annual grant calculated as a percentage of property taxes paid;*
- 2. Tax lift - Upon approval of a major renovation and or restoration project any increase in property taxes that result from the resulting increased assessment would be rebated as a grant for a period of time, for example, 10 years;*
- 3. Grants - that the existing grants program would be expanded to allow for increased financial support for residential buildings, a separate program for commercial buildings, and inclusion of privately held institutional buildings in the grant program;*
- 4. 20th Century heritage - consider changing heritage registration criteria to better encourage registration of outstanding architectural examples from the war years (1918-1945) and create a mid-century category from 1945-1975;*
- 5. Holding bylaw - request the province allow municipalities to establish a heritage holding bylaw similar to other provinces, to allow short term protection of important unregistered historic buildings while Council considers possible registration”.*

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Mason called three times for speakers to address the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee. There were no speakers present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING -September 21, 2017

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant