



**DISTRICTS 7 & 8 PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 27, 2017**

PRESENT: Ms. Sarah MacDonald, Vice Chair
Ms. Sunday Miller
Mr. Michael Bradfield
Ms. Jeana MacLeod
Mr. Grant Cooke
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Lindell Smith

REGRETS: Mr. Ashley Morton, Chair
Ms. Amy Siciliano
Mr. Joe Metlege

STAFF: Mr. John Simmons, Supervisor Urban Forester
Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Aaron Windsor, Legislative Support

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

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Districts 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/D78PAC/170327d78pac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m., and adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Miller, outgoing Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Bradfield

THAT Ashley. Morton be nominated Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Bradfield

THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant declared Mr. Morton Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

As Mr. Morton was not in attendance, the Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Bradfield

THAT Sarah MacDonald be nominated Vice Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Bradfield

THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant declared Ms. MacDonald Vice Chair of the District 7 & 8 Planning Advisory Committee.

Ms. MacDonald assumed the Chair.

2. TABLING OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The following was before the Advisory Committee:

- Districts 7&8 Planning Advisory Committee – 2016 Annual Report

The Committee briefly discussed the report and various options for responses to the report. Ms. Miller noted that this is the first Annual Report produced for the committee and that it on balance well reflected the work of the committee over the past year. The Committee agreed.

MOVED by Ms. Miller, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Districts 7&8 Planning Advisory Committee approve the 2016 Annual Report and forward it to Halifax and West Community Council for their information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 28, 2016

MOVED by Mr. Bradfield, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of November 28, 2016 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**
- 6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**
- 7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE**
- 9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

- 10. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

- 10.1 STAFF**

- 10.1.1 Presentation from John Simmons, Supervisor Urban Forester re: The Importance of Trees in Urban Planning**

The following was before the Advisory Committee:

- A staff presentation dated March 27, 2017

Mr. John Simmons, Supervisor Urban Forester, provided the staff presentation regarding the Urban Forest Master Plan. Mr. Simmons responded to questions from the Committee throughout the presentation, which highlighted:

- Canada's increasingly urban population and the growing interest in the importance of urban forests
- The public benefits of urban trees, including:
 - Pollution reduction and carbon capture
 - Rain interruption and absorption
 - Mitigation of urban heat islands and shade for human comfort
 - Extending the life of roads and urban infrastructure via the interruption of sunlight
 - Traffic calming and increased property values
 - Water filtration and shore erosion mitigation for urban lakes and rivers

- Unquantifiable benefits like aesthetics, wildlife habitat preservation, and the screening of UV light, etc.
- Overall crime reduction
- The problems faced by trees and forests in urban environments, including:
 - Pollutants and pests
 - New planting that sometimes does not keep up with natural loss
 - Intense human activity
 - Vandalism
- Future opportunities for managing the urban canopy, including cyclical tree trimming

Ms. Miller asked about the Municipalities plans for planting trees in areas that are currently sparsely planted, like Mulgrave Park and the Bayers Road area. Mr. Simmons noted there are planting opportunities in those areas and that he is working to advance canopy cover in those communities. Mr. Simmons also noted that one difficulty with planting, particularly in the Mulgrave Park and Creighton Street areas is the limited front yards and tight density.

Various Committee members asked about the mix of native species currently being planted by the Municipality, and what powers the Municipality has to maintain trees on private property. Mr. Simmons noted that the mix of plantings and their timings, particularly on new subdivision developments across the Municipality, may need to be revisited to encourage planting and retention that measures metrics nearer to the end of the development process.

The Chair thanked Mr. Simmons for providing this information.

Councillor Mason left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 24, 2017 Regular Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Aaron Windsor
Legislative Support