



**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
(STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BUDGET)  
MINUTES  
January 31, 2020**

PRESENT: Councillor Russell Walker, Chair  
Mayor Mike Savage  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
David Hendsbee  
Bill Karsten  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Sam Austin  
Tony Mancini  
Waye Mason  
Lindell Smith  
Shawn Cleary  
Richard Zurawski  
Paul Russell

REGRETS: Councillors: Stephen Adams  
Matt Whitman  
Tim Outhit

STAFF: Jane Fraser, Director of Finance & Asset Management/CFO  
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor  
Karen Brown, Solicitor  
Liam MacSween, Acting Deputy Clerk  
Judith Ng'ethe, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m., and recessed at 12:00 p.m. Budget Committee reconvened in at 1:05 p.m. Budget Committee adjourned at 1:32 p.m.*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

## 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair called for members of the public to come forward.

**Michael MacFadden**, representing the Halifax Regional Trails Association, spoke to Council in support of more investment in nature to realize healthier lifestyles, greater diversity and make Halifax a great place to visit and the place of choice to live. They noted that \$500,000 earmarked for parkland acquisition is less than provided in previous years and will not be sufficient to realize the Halifax Green Network Plan which passed with unanimous Council support. They requested that Council invest more in green space acquisition and in maintenance of acquired greenspace.

The Chair called three times for further speakers and there were none.

## 4. Parks and Recreation

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A revised staff recommendation report dated December 23, 2019 with attached staff presentation entitled "Parks and Recreation 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation"

At the January 29, 2020 Budget Committee meeting, Denise Schofield, Director, Parks & Recreation, delivered a presentation on the Parks and Recreation 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan.

The following motion was put on the floor at the January 29, 2020 Budget Committee meeting.

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Parks & Recreation 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council's fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.**

Budget Committee discussed the motion with staff responding to questions. Schofield clarified that in terms of potential parking lot items, the Committee can consider both options over and under budget and pressures within the budget but that the Committee has also been provided, for information, with a list of requests that would be coming before Council for consideration in the coming months.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the Budget Committee include a reduction of \$50,000 relating to Right of Way mowing (Council approved areas from 2011/2012 report) to the proposed 2020/21 budget for Parks and Recreation to the parking lot as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

The Budget Committee requested a list of areas to be affected by the proposed mowing reduction.

In response to a question from the Committee, Schofield advised that should Council approve the reduction in right of way mowing, a communications strategy will be formulated to advise residents of the change.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Cleary, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blackburn

**That the Budget Committee include staffing and expansion of the Inclusion Program (\$125,600) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Schofield informed the Committee about the challenges experienced in recruiting staff for the Inclusion Program as many of the programs are not continuous and only take place over the summer period. Schofield advised that the staffing expansion will increase the number of Inclusion Program staff, undertaking recruiting, training and working with parents and partners, from one to three.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Karsten, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the Budget Committee include a reduction of \$100,000 relating to lighting fees for outdoor facilities to the proposed 2020/21 budget for Parks and Recreation to the parking lot as an operating under budget option for consideration.**

Schofield advised the Committee that a fee review is underway and staff will be recommending to Council that the additional lighting fees charge, over and above the outdoor facilities rental cost, be discontinued.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (7 in favour, 3 against)**

In favour: Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Smith, Zurawski

Against: Chair Walker, Councillors Mancini, Cleary

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Karsten, Mason, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Mancini

**THAT the Budget Committee include improvements to the field maintenance program (4 staff – seasonal) (\$79,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED. (9 in favour, 2 against)**

In favour: Chair Walker, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Zurawski

Against: Councillors Smith, Cleary

Not present: Councillors Karsten, Mason, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Budget Committee include increase to P&R operational support to MDFs (\$90,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (9 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Chair Walker, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Zurawski

Against: Mayor Savage, Councillor Cleary

Not present: Councillors Streach, Karsten, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

Schofield informed the Committee that the Municipality has taken over maintenance of a number of recreational trails that community groups have not been able to continue to maintain and that it is proposed that these be maintained by the Department's seasonal staff.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Budget Committee request a supplementary staff report regarding increasing the budget for trail maintenance by \$79,000 as an operating over budget option for consideration in the parking lot.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (9 in favour, 2 against)

In favour: Chair Walker, Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Hendsbee, Nicoll, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Zurawski

Against: Councillors Smith, Cleary

Not present: Councillors Streach, Karsten, Adams, Whitman, Russell, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Budget Committee include Aquatic Instructors salary adjustments (\$50,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Angela Green, Manager, Recreation Programming explained that the aquatic instructional program is very popular and qualified instructors are required and that the salary adjustment is proposed as an incentive as the lifeguard and instructor positions are paid at the same level while the instructor positions involve more responsibility.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillors Streach, Karsten, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

Responding to a question from the Committee regarding provision of washroom facilities at D-class fields, Schofield informed the Committee that Council previously directed staff to remove the placement of washrooms on D-class fields but that Council can explore their reinstatement.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the Budget Committee request a supplementary staff report outlining funding options for temporary washroom facilities for D-class fields for inclusion in the parking lot.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Mancini, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mayor Savage

**THAT the Budget Committee include the Art Grants Report (18-19 BAL Sheet) (\$125,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillors Streach, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

The Budget Committee requested a list of the arts grants from the previous year when reviewing the parking lot.

The Budget Committee concluded discussion and a vote was taken on the main motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Councillors Streach, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

**6. Planning and Development**

The following was before Budget Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 29, 2020 with attached staff presentation entitled "Planning and Development 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan Presentation"

This matter was deferred from the January 29, 2020 Budget Committee meeting.

Kelly Denty, Director of Planning & Development delivered a presentation on the Planning and Development 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan and responded to questions from the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

**THAT the Budget Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the Planning and Development 2020/21 Budget and Business Plan, incorporating Regional Council's fiscal direction as per the January 7, 2020 Budget Committee meeting and as proposed in the accompanying presentation, and furthermore to prepare Over and Under items for that Plan as directed by Regional Council's Committee of the Whole on Budget.**

The Budget Committee considered the following motions:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the Budget Committee include Accessible taxi \*(2yr) (\$200,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the Budget Committee include Heritage Incentives (\$150,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.** (8 in favour, 1 against)

In favour: Chair Walker, Councillors Hendsbee, Austin, Mancini, Mason, Smith, Cleary, Zurawski

Against: Councillor Russell

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

**THAT the Budget Committee include Heritage Research Program – Planner 1 (\$80,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

**THAT the Budget Committee include Food Action Plan Initiatives (\$100,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Austin

**THAT the Budget Committee include HalifACT2050 – 3 staff hired by September 2020 (50% \$91k) (\$137,000) to the parking lot as an operating over budget option for consideration.**

Denty informed the Committee that the staff members would be a climate change specialist, clean energy specialist and new environmental technician who would commence addressing the directions already provided by Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

The Budget Committee concluded discussion and a vote was taken on the main motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Not present: Mayor Savage, Deputy Mayor Blackburn, Councillors Streach, Karsten, Nicoll, Adams, Whitman, Outhit

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Acting Municipal Clerk