



COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 21, 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors Waye Mason, Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair
Councillor Stephen Adams
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Steve Craig

OTHER COUNCIL
MEMBERS:

Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Mayor Mike Savage

STAFF:

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Claire Gillivan, Solicitor
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Watts

That the minutes of December 17, 2015 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletion:

10.3.1 Diane Kelderman, President & CEO of the NS Co-operative Council – Infinity Impact Fund

Additions:

15.1 Correspondence dated January 15, 2016 from Amy Melmock, General Manager, Neptune Theatre Foundation – Funding Request

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Adams

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 dated January 15, 2016 from Amy Melmock, General Manager, Neptune Theatre Foundation – Funding Request was added to the agenda during the approval of the order of business and dealt with under 15.1.

10.2 Petitions: None

10.3 Presentations:

10.3.1 Diane Kelderman, President & CEO of the NS Co-operative Council - Infinity Impact Fund

This item was deleted from the agenda.

10.3.2 Ben Wedge, Halifax Cycling Coalition – Cycling Investment as an Economic Driver

Mr. Ben Wedge representing the Halifax Cycling Coalition provided presentation with regard to considering bicycling, walking, and transit as a key focus area in the next economic strategy. He highlighted that attracting and retaining new residents, and the future economic success of the Municipality depends on acting now through planning policies and economic development strategies to remain competitive in the global market. A copy of the presentation is in the official file of this meeting.

Mr. Wedge responded to questions.

In response to questions from Councillor Adams concerning research and supporting data for points raised in his presentation, Mr. Wedge advised that he would follow up and provide the Committee with grey literature summaries of the most recent research on cycling and web-links to case controlled studies for the Committee's information.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD:

11.1 Rural Benchmarks & Service Levels

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff information report dated December 8, 2015.

Mr. Chris Bryant, Senior Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs provided a presentation on the information report which originated from a Committee motion of December 12, 2013 which requested a staff report on establishing benchmarks and researching service levels, competitiveness and taxation in the agricultural and rural shore areas of HRM in comparison to other rural and coastal agricultural counties in Nova Scotia.

Councillor Craig entered the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Councillor Mason stepped down from the Chair in order to address the item; Councillor Adams assumed the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

- 1. Request a staff report identifying implementation and cost implications to develop a Halifax Rural Index, including possible participation by Halifax Partnership and in coordination with the Planning and Development Rural team, and;**
- 2. Engage neighboring municipalities, UNSM and the Province in identifying standards and measures that could be included in the index.**

Councillor Watts put forward two additions to the motion, as follows, and which the mover of the motion agreed were friendly amendments.

- 3. Staff report on the formation of a rural action committee to consult with residents in rural communities that would include HRM and , neighbouring councillors, neighbouring municipal staff and representatives of rural areas.**

4. Send the staff information report to Regional Council for information and presentation.

Councillor Nicoll pointed out that there were other ways of engaging the residents other than establishing a formal committee and she hoped the staff report would consider other options.

The motion now reads as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee:

- 1. Request a staff report identifying implementation and cost implications to develop a Halifax Rural Index, including possible participation by Halifax Partnership and in coordination with the Planning and Development Rural team, and;**
- 2. Engage neighboring municipalities, UNSM and the Province in identifying standards and measures that could be included in the index.**
- 3. Request a staff report on the formation of a rural action committee to consult with residents in rural communities that would include HRM and neighbouring councillors, neighbouring municipal staff and representatives of rural areas.**
- 4. Send the staff information report to Regional Council for information and presentation.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Economic Strategy Renewal Update

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 5, 2016.

Mr. Ron Hanlon, President and CEO, Halifax Partnership, Mr. Matt Hebb, Chair, Economic Strategy Advisory Committee, and Ms. Maggie MacDonald, Managing Director, Government Relations and External Affairs presented the staff report and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Mayor Savage

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee receive this report and forward it to Regional Council for information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Recommended Legislative Authority to Suspend Potential Development in The Barrington South (Old South Suburb) while Establishing a Heritage Conservation District

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 20, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council request that the Province amend the Heritage Property Act and Heritage Conservation Districts regulations, where appropriate, to authorize the Council to adopt a by-law that would suspend specific types of development, for a period not exceeding one (1) year, within the boundaries of an area that Council has identified as part of a background study to establish a Heritage Conservation District. The by-law shall identify and restrict inappropriate development activity for the period in which it is in effect. Another by-law, under this provision, cannot be established, in an area which was previously subject to such a by-law, for a period of three years once the by-law ceases to be in effect.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Planning and Development – Public Consultation Renewed

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 6, 2016.

Mr. Carl Purvis, Acting Supervisor of Community Planning addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the staff report.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Craig

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council:

- 1. Direct staff to develop a new Administrative Order, which would outline required and optional engagement activities for planning applications, policy amendments, and new policy development undertaken by the Planning & Development business unit and return to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee when this work is complete;**
- 2. Direct staff to investigate opportunities to implement new engagement tools as well as modernized existing tools on a go-forward basis in an effort to modernize the planning process;**
- 3. Initiate the process to consider amending the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy so as to require consistency in public consultation requirement / standards throughout all Municipal Planning Strategies and Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies; and**
- 4. Direct staff to return to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee on a yearly basis with the purpose of reporting on an engagement activities performed in that year, and recommended improvements to the process.**

At 12:29 p.m. Councillor Watts retired from the meeting.

The Committee members overall spoke in support of the staff recommendation, and offered the following feedback:

- Other business units who also engage the public could benefit from this process.
- Public information meetings are a comfortable level of engagement for a lot of the public.
- Would support a public hearing being held on the Administrative Order regarding this matter.
- Need to look at how developers are engaging the Community.
- When staff tie development agreements with municipal planning strategies, it proves challenging for Councillors.
- Staff should keep some of the traditional methods of public engagement and blend in social media.
- Councillors have noticed that often at Public Information Meetings, residents assume the project is staff's and not the developer's.

- Notification letters and other forms of public notification need to be more informal in language and more identifiable to the general public.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) - NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Correspondence dated January 15, 2016 from Amy Melmock, General Manager, Neptune Theatre Foundation – Funding Request

Due to time constraints, the Chair advised that this item would be deferred to the February 18, 2016 meeting.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 18, 2016

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12.35 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant