



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 16, 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason, Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Tony Mancini
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councillor Stephen Adams

STAFF: Ms. Clair Gillivan, Solicitor
Ms. Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/index.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and recessed at 11:54 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2016

Councillor Watts advised that during the Committee's discussion of Regional Subdivision Plan she raised questions in regard to environmental sustainability and suggested there were opportunities within the regional subdivision bylaw to meet other policy direction within the Regional Plan, like the commitment to environmental sustainability. She asked that the minutes be amended to include her comment.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the minutes of May 19, 2016 be approved, as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 15.1 ArtsHalifaxAdvisory Committee Recommendations
- 15.2 Funding Request – Neptune Theatre Foundation

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

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

10.1.1 Correspondence from Cindy MacKinnon, Managing

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Correspondence dated May 26, 2016 from Cindy MacKinnon, Managing Director, DEANS.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee forward the correspondence dated May 26, 2016 from Cindy MacKinnon, Managing Director, DEANS to staff for report.

MOTIN PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 United Way Halifax – The Path Ahead: Vision for Halifax and a New Partnership – Sara Napier, President & CEO & Paul Shakotko, Director of Strategies and Partnerships

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation entitled The Path Ahead: Vision for Halifax and a New Partnership

Ms. Sara Napier, President and CEO and Mr. Paul Shakotko, Director of Strategies and Partnerships, United Way Halifax provided a presentation. The presentation focussed on their vision and revised strategic plan; their work as a funder, convenor, partner, research and advocate; and opportunities for strengthening their partnership and collaboration with HRM.

10.3.2 Affordable Housing Targets and Priorities – Kasia Tota, Community Developer, Planning & Development; and Max Chauvin, Chair of the Housing & Homelessness Partnership

Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Development and Planning addressed the Committee and introduced Ms. Kasia Tota, HRM Community Developer and Mr. Max Chauvin, Chair of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership. Ms. Tota and Mr. Chauvin provided the presentation. They advised that the Housing and Homelessness Partnership is a multi-stakeholder coalition committed to working together with nine partners to put an end to homelessness and housing poverty in the HRM. The presentation elaborated on the membership of the Partnership, their collective beliefs, affordable housing needs and gaps and the 5 year strategic plan which was approved by the Partnership this past December, and the Partnership endorsed the following 5-year targets:

- 2,000 units preserved and upgraded (public, non-profit and market rented and owned)
- 1,000 new affordable social and non-market housing units
- 1,000 new affordable market rental units
- 250 affordable homeownership housing units
- 250 new rent supplements
- 500 new secondary units
- Increase the number of licensed Single Room Occupancies (current 17)
- Reduce vacancy rates in key neighbourhoods

The presentation concluded with an outline of the Partnership's key implementation activities as follows:

- Enable the creation of new units through existing and new federal-provincial programs, and supportive planning policies
- Enable density bonusing for affordable housing and seek inclusionary housing legislation
- Identify existing strategic public lands suitable for affordable housing development and regeneration
- Align the work of the AHWG with the Between the Bridges Initiative and other policy initiatives
- Invest in current affordable housing stock and improve residential building standards

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Nicoll that Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee forward the report and presentation to Regional

Council with the recommendation that Council endorse the key recommendations, as provided in the presentation.

In speaking to the motion, Councillor Watts advised that there are matters the Partnership needs to work on but there are specific matters that the Municipality needs to identify and be accountable to, and that when this matter goes to Council, staff need to clearly identify the Municipality's role.

At 11:08 a.m. Councillor Mancini retired from the meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee agreed to deal with item 15.1 at this time, followed by item 13.2.

Councillor Mason stepped down from the Chair, and Councillor Nicoll, Vice Chair, assumed the Chair

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 ArtsHalifaxAdvisory Committee Recommendations

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 8, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts

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

- 1. Approve the approach to the establishment of peer jury review processes for the Interim Grants to Professional Arts Organization Program as outlined in the Discussion section of the June 8, 2016 staff report;**
- 2. Direct Staff to prepare amendments to Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations to establish the peer jury review processes and return to Council with the proposed amendments for Council's consideration prior to October 31, 2015; and**
- 3. Defer consideration of the recommendation 5.7., "Notification of grant recommendations is communicated directly to the Corporate Administrative Officer (CAO) for final approval" to be considered concurrently with the Committee's final reporting requirement as required in Administrative Order 2014-019-GOV respecting the ArtsHalifax Advisory Committee, Section 24, anticipated to be delivered to staff in advance of the 2018-2019 budget planning process.**

A discussion ensued with Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Program Support Services, responded to questions. The Committee expressed concern in regard to deferring ArtsHalifax Advisory Committee's Recommendation 5.7 as per staff's recommendation 3.

A discussion ensued whether to vote on each recommendation separately, which may result in the report being referred back to staff and, therefore, would cause a delay in this matter being considered by Regional Council. The Committee was cognizant that amendments to the Administrative Order to establish the peer jury review processes have to be considered by Council prior to October 31, 2016 to be in effect for next year's grant recommendations. Therefore, the Committee agreed to advance the report to Regional Council without delay, and for further discussion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.2 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Craig

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report regarding opportunities to make residents aware and promote the use of the Provincial Office of the Ombudsman as a means to assist residents who feel they have been treated unfairly and, when warranted, to recommend improvements in the delivery of government services offered in HRM.”

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason assumed the Chair and Councillor Nicoll returned to her seat at the Committee table.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

11.1 Information Report – Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Program Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- An information report dated April 25, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig that the information report RE Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Program Update, dated April 25, 2016 be forwarded to Regional Council for information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11.2 Information Report – Update: Cobequid Cultural Society Less than Market Lease Request

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- An information report dated April 22, 2016.

Mr. Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Operations Support, responded to clarification questions from the Committee.

Councillor Craig advised that the report states the Cobequid Cultural Society has indicated they would like to purchase the land, but that the report doesn't outline the next steps in this regard. He questioned what the next step will be, and when will it come to Regional Council. He noted that if the decision is to sell the property then there are the implications in regard to Administrative Order 50.

Mr. Stickings explained that staff is continuing to work through the logistics, adding that the approach is to bring back a recommendation to Council that enables the Society's project to proceed through the best stream. He added that the Administrative Order 50 review is not meant to provide an obstacle but to find the right category to enable the group to advance their project. Mr. Stickings noted that the purchase will put the group in a better position, equity wise, when they begin a capital campaign. He also pointed out that it doesn't mean a long term lease is off the table but that in their discussions with the group, it appears that a purchase may be a better direction for them. Mr. Stickings advised that he anticipated the report may be submitted to Council before the end of this summer.

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Halifax Rural Index

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 25, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that staff working in collaboration across municipal business units and with the Halifax Partnership, create and maintain a Halifax Rural Index along the lines described in the Discussion section of the May 25, 2016 staff report. It is further recommended that staff continue to explore the development of a broader index involving other municipalities, UNSM and the Province.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Craig

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Watts

That the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report that outlines the process and key stakeholders for articulating HRM's role and approach to tourism, festivals, and special events as outlined in Halifax Economic Growth Plan 2016-21, recently approved by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) - NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 ArtsHalifaxAdvisory Committee Recommendations

This was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 4.

15.2 Funding Request – Neptune Theatre Foundation

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 8, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to consider a \$50,000 one-time capital grant contribution to Neptune Theatre as part of the 2017/18 operating budget.

A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that representatives of Neptune Theatre have not yet seen the staff report and recommendation. The Committee agreed that the matter should be deferred until Neptune has an opportunity to review the report and provide feedback

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the matter be deferred to the July meeting, to provide Neptune Theatre an opportunity to review the report and provide any feedback.

MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Tristen Cleveland, Halifax, advised that he was in attendance representing the Ecology Action Centre. Mr. Cleveland presented to the Committee his concerns in regard to the facilitator's report on the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes that was recently released. He reviewed points in the report which he suggested were fundamentally flawed and resulted in favouring opening up the park to development. He added that after ten years of work on this matter, the stakeholders involved in this process are essentially back to where they started. Mr. Cleveland encouraged Regional Council to deal with this matter openly, with public involvement, and to keep in mind the gravity of the facilitator's decision.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 28, 2016

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant