



**EXECUTIVE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 27, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage, Chair
Deputy Mayor Steve Craig, Vice-Chair
Councillors: Tony Mancini
Waye Mason
Russell Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Councillors: Tim Outhit
Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Mr. John Traves, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Karen Brown, Solicitor
Mr. Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Phoebe Rai, 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 the Executive Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCadmin/170227esc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m., and recessed at 10:48 a.m. The Standing Committee reconvened at 10:52 a.m. and moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 11:00 a.m. The Standing Committee reconvened to adjourn at 12:01 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and noted regrets from Councillor Outhit and Councillor Nicoll.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the minutes of January 16, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Mancini, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 - None

10.2 Petitions - None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Pam Williams and Tony Smith re: Council of Parties for the Restorative Inquiry into the NS Home of Colored Children

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A presentation dated February 27, 2017
- A report produced by the Council of Parties of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children Restorative Inquiry entitled: *“Council of Parties Report – Winter 2016/17”*

Mr. Tony Smith and Chief Justice Pam Williams provided a presentation to members of the Standing Committee regarding the Restorative Inquiry (RI) into the Nova Scotia Home of Colored Children. They underscored that the RI is focused on building strong relationships with all partners and using the process as a lens on broader issues of systemic racism and its effects. They noted that engaging and mobilizing youth is a crucial aspect of the process of developing knowledge and understanding leading to social change. The presenters indicated that the next steps in the RI are sharing circles with former residents, partner circles, further research, and moving forward to address key issues.

Mayor Savage thanked the presenters for sharing their information. He commented that Nova Scotia is becoming well known for restorative justice, and he was pleased to see this example of such a process working to recognize systemic racism and learn from past mistakes to develop a basis for making real change.

The presenters responded to questions of clarification. Chief Justice Williams expressed how important it is to learn about how racism has created trauma in African Nova Scotian communities before moving forward to make improvements. She advised that although it is beyond the scope of the RI to address hundreds of years of systemic racism in such a short amount of time, she is hopeful that some key issues will be addressed, and moreover a roadmap will be developed so that others can build off the work to tackle issues the inquiry not able to address.

Mr. Smith commented on his experiences through the RI process. He noted that many former residents credit the Home for helping them realize better lives, and although some abused their authority there are positive accounts as well. He indicated that a crucial element of the RI has been the creation of safe spaces so that people feel comfortable sharing their experiences without fear of being attacked.

Mayor Savage noted that the municipality would be honored to be included in the process where appropriate, and he invited the presenters to return to the Standing Committee in the future with further updates. He concluded with a quote from author Lewis B. Smedes:

“Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future.”

The Standing Committee recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Public Consultation - Campaign Finance Reform

The following was before the Executive Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to use the public consultation and communications strategy set out in the discussion section of the staff report dated January 25, 2017 to facilitate a public consultation process on campaign finance reform, as described in the staff report dated January 25, 2017, prior to the preparation of a Campaign Finance By-law.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – January 16, 2017

This matter was addressed in public session.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of January 16, 2017 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.2 Personnel Matter

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Executive Standing Committee convene to In Camera (In Private) to address item 14.2.1.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Standing Committee convened to In Camera (In Private) at 11:00 a.m.

14.2.1 Chief Administrative Officer Performance Planning and Review Process - *Private and Confidential Report*

This item was discussed during the In Camera session, with no further action required.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant