



**COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 26, 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason, Chair
Councillor Sam Austin, Vice-Chair
Councillor Dave Hendsbee
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Steve Craig

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll

STAFF: Brad Anguish, Director of Parks & Recreation
Claire Gillivan, Solicitor
Phoebe Rai, 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.

**Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee Minutes
October 26, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Wayne Mason, Chair called the meeting to order The Chair called the meeting to order in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 20, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the minutes of July 20, 2017 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Committee approval is required for the circulation of late reports, as per Section 24 of Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of Council.

- 12.1.2 Changes to “Welcomed in Halifax” Program Criteria
- Private and Confidential Information Items
Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report - re: Changes to “Welcomed in Halifax” Program Criteria
- Information Items
4. Memorandum from the Director of Legal, Municipal Clerk and External Affairs dated August 24, 2017 re: Partnership between HRM and United Way

Councillor Smith requested that Information Item 3 re: Fall 2016 and Winter 2017 Youth Engagement be brought forward to the next meeting for possible staff presentation and questions of clarification.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

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 – NONE

10.2 Petitions – NONE

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Leslie Gates, Project Coordinator, Enactus Saint Mary's University re: Enactus Program

The following documentation was before the Standing Committee:

- A PowerPoint presentation dated October 26, 2017 supplied by Leslie Gates
- A handout distributed at the meeting on October 26, 2017

Councillor Outhit joined the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Ross Arsenault and Carl Archer of Enactus at Saint Mary's University provided the presentation to the Standing Committee. They outlined the "Pipeline" social enterprise development system that Enactus uses to support the development of community-based social enterprises. The presenters highlighted the "Square Roots" project launched by Enactus that aims to address food insecurity by redirecting food that would otherwise be wasted to people in need.

The presenters responded to questions of clarification, noting that they would like to work with the municipality to help target communities where their program could make a significant impact and to help identify possible funding sources. They noted that Enactus has developed a succession plan to help develop younger students into leadership roles to ensure the projects are sustainable.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their information.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Halifax Partnership and Halifax Economic Growth Plan 2016-21 Update

The following was before the committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 13, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Standing Committee forward the report dated August 13, 2017 to Regional Council for information.

Jake Whalen, Senior Advisor, Economic Policy and Development responded to questions of clarification, noting that the Halifax Partnership is working with municipal staff on an economic outcome planning presentation and an annual report. Whalen also noted that staff will be coming forward with an African Nova Scotian economic action plan in the near future that will align with the economic strategy endorsed by Regional Council and the forthcoming renewed economic strategy action plan.

A brief discussion ensued, with Ron Hanlon, President and Chief Executive Officer and Ian Munro, Chief Economist of Halifax Partnership responding to questions of clarification, noting the following:

- Halifax Partnership opened up a new stream in the Connector Program specifically focused in the African Nova Scotian and Aboriginal communities; and
- Regarding the declines in the key indicators, these are not significant differences and they are unable say with precision why the indicators had declined. It was suggested that in future reports an annual trendline would be helpful.

The Committee noted that a recent report had suggested that Halifax Regional Municipality has some of the highest taxes in the country and asked if the Halifax Partnership could review the study and provide a briefing note for Council to consider during the upcoming budget deliberations.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Changes to “Welcomed in Halifax” Program Criteria

The following was before the committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 20, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee:

1. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

(i) Draft amendments to By-law U-100, the User Charges Bylaw, to permit the waiver of transit fees for up to one year for asylum seekers and claimants with rejected claims and return to Council at a later date with such amendments for further consideration; and

(ii) Provide for the waiver of recreation fees for up to one year for asylum seekers and claimants with rejected claims within the Recreation Fee Study project.

2. Forward the Private and Confidential Information Report dated October 17, 2017 to Regional Council for their information.

Tracey Jones Grant, Manager Diversity and Inclusion and Roberto Montiel, Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator responded to questions of clarification. Key points include:

- The Program provides one year of free transit and recreation services, which staff recommend extending to refugees and asylum seekers whose claims have been rejected;
- It is estimated that there are less than 200 asylum seekers in Nova Scotia, the majority of which live in Halifax. If their claim is rejected, there are legal avenues for them to continue the process of resettlement for up to four years;
- Staff works with ISANS and the Halifax Refugee Clinic to issue Welcomed in Halifax cards to those who are eligible.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS

Councillor Mason stepped down from the Chair at 10:43 a.m. Councillor Austin assumed the Chair.

13.1 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee

THAT the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report regarding options and financial implications to enhanced support for protection of heritage buildings in HRM, that shall include consultation with the Heritage Advisory Committee as appropriate, and include but not be limited to the following considerations:

1. Tax relief - That registered heritage properties could receive an annual grant calculated as a percentage of property taxes paid;

2. Tax lift - Upon approval of a major renovation and or restoration project any increase in property taxes that result from the resulting increased assessment would be rebated as a grant for a period of time, for example, 10 years;

3. Grants - that the existing grants program would be expanded to allow for increased financial support for residential buildings, a separate program for commercial buildings, and inclusion of privately held institutional buildings in the grant program;

4. 20th Century heritage - consider changing heritage registration criteria to better encourage registration of outstanding architectural examples from the war years (1918-1945) and create a mid-century category from 1945-1975;

5. Holding bylaw - request the province allow municipalities to establish a heritage holding bylaw similar to other provinces, to allow short term protection of important unregistered historic buildings while Council considers possible registration.

A brief discussion ensued, with the Committee noting that many of these points have been raised in discussions of the Heritage Advisory Committee and warrant further dialogue. Councillor Mason clarified that his intention through the motion is to get information regarding how to stabilize the inventory of historic buildings by providing incentives to registering historically significant buildings.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

There was no In Camera meeting held.

Private and Confidential Information Items

1. Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report dated October 17, 2017 - re: Changes to "Welcomed in Halifax" Program Criteria

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Mason called three times for speakers to address the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee. There were no speakers present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - November 16, 2017

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant