



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Sam Austin, Chair
Councillor Lindell Smith, Vice Chair
Councillor Steve Streach
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Denise Schofield, Director of Parks and Recreation
Donna Boutilier, Solicitor
Liam MacSween, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Sam Austin, Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 21, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the minutes of February 21, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Streach

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 – NONE

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Discover Halifax 2018 Update Report – Information Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated March 11, 2019
- A presentation entitled: Destination Halifax 2018 Update dated April 18, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee receive a presentation on the 2018 Discover Halifax Update Report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ross Jefferson, President and CEO of Discover Halifax provided a presentation on the 2018 Discover Halifax Update Report.

In response to questions from the Standing Committee, Jefferson provided an overview of Halifax's destination marketing strategy geared toward the travelling public and advising of recent pick up on Trip Advisor.

In response to a follow up question, Jefferson advised that the Special Events Levy is reserved to properties with twenty rooms or more and currently does not apply to Air B&B properties.

Jefferson concluded by providing an overview of Discover Halifax's efforts to increase diversity among its hired talent.

12.1.2 Fall 2018 and Winter 2019 Youth Engagement Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 11, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Streach

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer or his designate to:

- 1. Continue to engage youth, both in their communities and online, to better understand the current trends and issues of youth across HRM; and**
- 2. Provide an annual report the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding trends issues, best practices and actions taken.**

In response to questions from the Standing Committee, Sharon Martin, Manager of Youth Services provided an overview of the recent Youth Summit that was hosted by the Youth Advisory Committee.

In response to a follow up question, Martin advised that staff are monitoring the programming underway at the Sackville Den with a view to adopting the model in other areas of the municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.2.1 Case H00437 - Strategy for the Protection of Potential Heritage Resources in Downtown Halifax (Map 6)

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A report from the Heritage Advisory Committee dated February 1, 2019 with attached staff recommendation report dated December 28, 2018
- A staff presentation entitled: Case H00437 - Strategy for the Protection of Potential Heritage Resources in Downtown Halifax (Map 6) dated April 18, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

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

- 1. Initiate a process to evaluate existing potential heritage properties identified in Attachment D of the staff report dated December 28, 2018 under the HRM Evaluation Criteria for registered heritage properties under H-200, the Heritage Property By-law;**
- 2. Initiate a background study for the Historic Properties Heritage Conservation District that will consider additional potential heritage resources identified in Attachment D of the staff report dated December 28, 2018 within a boundary that is contiguous with the area identified in Attachment B of the staff report dated December 28, 2018, as Historic Properties; and**
- 3. Direct staff to prepare a program, including financial and land use incentives, for registered heritage properties located in Downtown Halifax, outside of Heritage Conservation Districts, for Council's consideration.**

Seamus McGreal, Planner III provided a presentation on Case H00437 - Strategy for the Protection of Potential Heritage Resources in Downtown Halifax (Map 6).

In response to questions from the Standing Committee, McGreal advised that the staff intends to complete the strategy, including public engagement, within an 18-month timeframe. In terms of the review of the heritage boundary, McGreal further noted that staff are working with planning students from Dalhousie University and are intending to have it completed in six months time.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Case H00460 – Protection of Heritage Buildings: Options and Financial Implications

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A report from the Heritage Advisory Committee dated March 28, 2018 with attached staff report dated February 7, 2019.
- A staff presentation entitled: Case H00460 – Protection of Heritage Buildings: Options and Financial Implications.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Smith

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

- 1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare amendments to Bylaw B-201 (The Building Code By-law) and return to Council for its consideration, to include registered heritage properties in the list of applications which are exempt from municipal building permit fees when such fees pertain to the maintenance, preservation or restoration of the exterior of a registered heritage building, for implementation in fiscal year 2020/21;**
- 2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to consider increasing the annual funding to the Heritage Incentives Program to \$300,000 per year, during the 2020/21 operating budget development process;**
- 3. Adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 2014-002-ADM, Respecting the Heritage Incentives Program, as set out in Attachment B of the staff report dated February 7, 2019, to increase the maximum yearly residential grant to \$15,000 and the maximum commercial grant to \$25,000 for approved work under the program, with such amendments coming into effect for the fiscal year 2020/21;**
- 4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Council with a report and recommendations with respect to possible amendments to Administrative Order 2014-001-ADM, Respecting Tax Relief to Non-Profit Organizations, to increase the exemption for otherwise-qualified owners of registered municipal heritage properties for implementation in fiscal year 2020/21;**
- 5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include within the upcoming review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy amendments to include policy to enable enhanced development options for registered heritage properties across the municipality by development agreement;**
- 6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare amendments to the municipal evaluation criteria for heritage sites and properties for Council's consideration, with advice from the Heritage**

Advisory Committee; such process to take place following completion of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan;

7. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to research additional measures for the protection of un-registered heritage properties based on existing legislation in other jurisdictions and to prepare a report for consideration by Regional Council respecting possible requests for amendments to the Heritage Property Act; and

8. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to continue formal discussions with the Province on measures to prevent the demolition of heritage resources prior to adoption of a heritage conservation district based on the previous written requests from the Municipality sent on April 4, 2016.

Aaron Murnaghan, Principle Planner provided a presentation on Case H00460 – Protection of Heritage Buildings: Options and Financial Implications.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.3 City Historian for Halifax Regional Municipality

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A report from the Heritage Advisory Committee dated March 29, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Craig

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request a staff report to examine the appointment of a Halifax Historian Laureate to promote the cultural heritage of the Municipality, and that the position be developed with a mandate, objectives, and terms of office similar to that of the Halifax Poet Laureate.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Smith

“Take notice, that at the next regular meeting of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, I intend to move a motion to request that the Chief Administrative Officer provide a staff report concerning the implications of prioritizing future heritage conservations districts following the substantial completion of the new heritage district for Historic Properties. Specifically, the committee proposes that new districts be considered first for Downtown Dartmouth, and then for Halifax’s Old North End including the area referred to as Creighton’s Fields”.

16.2 Councillor Smith

“Take notice, that at the next regular meeting of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, I intend to move a motion to request a staff report to consider a pilot initiative to register prominent properties associated with African Nova Scotian heritage within the Regional Centre,

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by identifying potential properties and forming a working group comprised of members from the African Nova Scotian, heritage research, and historic research communities and; depending on the outcome of the initiative, consider expanding the initiative for all of Halifax Regional Municipality”.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Austin called three times for members of the public to address the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. There were none present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 16, 2019 – Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax – 10:00 a.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant