



**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 8, 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Blackburn, Chair
Councillor Sam Austin, Vice-Chair
Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Patty Cuttell
Deputy Mayor Pamela Lovelace

STAFF: Donna Boutilier, Solicitor
Denise Schofield, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Citizen Services
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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 1:07 p.m. and adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 18, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the minutes of November 18, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, Standing Committee requested that item 17 be considered prior to item 10.3.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Smith

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Municipal Clerk's Office received correspondence relating to item 12.1.2, which was circulated to members of the Standing Committee.

For a detailed list of the correspondence received, refer to the specific item.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 International Partnerships Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated July 29, 2022
- A staff presentation dated December 8

Nancy Phillips, Vice President, Investment & International Partnerships, Halifax Partnership, gave a presentation and answered questions for members of Standing Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

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

- 1. Establish an Economic Partnership with Portsmouth, England;**
- 2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate, and the Mayor to execute, an Economic Partnership agreement with Portsmouth consistent with the discussion section of the July 29, 2021 report and for a term not to exceed five years; and,**
- 3. Adopt the proposed amendments to Administrative Order 2014-003-GOV Respecting International Partnerships as set out in Attachment D of the July 29, 2021 report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Halifax Common Master Plan

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 4, 2022
- A staff presentation dated December 8
- Correspondence from Judith Fingard, Howard Epstein, Natalie Borden, Lesley Patten, Jenna Robbins, Janet Shotwell, Stephanie MacWhirter, and Richard Peisinger

Carolle Koziak Roberts, Landscape Architect, Policy and Planning, gave a presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cuttell

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

- 1. Repeal the 1994 Halifax Common Plan and adopt the Halifax Common Master Plan (Master Plan) as contained in Attachment A of the November 4, 2021 report, as a guiding document for open space planning, management, and development within the Halifax Common; and**
- 2. Direct the CAO to undertake periodic reviews at least every five years of the Master Plan for any updates**

Carolle Koziak Roberts, Landscape Architect, Policy and Planning, and Richard Harvey, Manager of Policy and Planning, answered questions for members of Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lovelace

THAT the motion be deferred to the January 20, 2022 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee to provide time for further public review of the Halifax Common Master Plan.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 COMMUNITY DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair noted that there were three registered public speakers and opened public participation.

Howard Epstein, Director of the Friends of the Halifax Common, spoke before the Standing Committee and answered questions regarding the proposed Halifax Common Master Plan. The speaker supported deferring the recommendation before Standing Committee. The speaker expressed a desire to provide further time for detailed review before Standing Committee and between stakeholders. The speaker identified several cursory problems, firstly noting that the wording of the document as a “guiding document” is insufficiently clear language with little capacity for legal enforcement. Secondly, the wording of “open space planning” potentially overlooks the importance of other non-open spaces and the management of these.

Alan Ruffman, a resident of Ferguson’s Cove, spoke before the Standing Committee and answered questions regarding the proposed Halifax Common Master Plan. The speaker expressed a desire to provide further time for detailed review of the plan before Standing Committee and between stakeholders.

Tamzen Black, past president of the board of directors for the Halifax Lancers, spoke before the Standing Committee and answered questions regarding the proposed Halifax Common Master Plan. The speaker expressed a desire to provide further time for detailed review of the plan before Standing Committee and between stakeholders. The speaker expressed concern that several proposals contained in the Master Plan would limit the current operations and future expansions of the Lancers’ programing. Responding to questions from Standing Committee, the speaker noted that they have had recent discussions with staff, but the issues identified by the speaker are currently not adequately addressed. There is currently a waitlist composed of about one thousand individuals for the junior ride programing and therapeutic ride time programing, the later forming the bulk of the wait list.

The Chair called three (3) times for any other member of the public wishing to come forward to address the Standing Committee. There being none, the Chair thanked all speakers and closed public participation.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 20, 2022

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant