



**ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 4, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Zurawski, Chair
Councillor Shawn Cleary, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Deputy Mayor Tony Mancini

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Streach

STAFF: Kelly Denty, Director, Planning & Development
Joshua Judah Q.C., Solicitor
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 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 6, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

THAT the minutes of June 6, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as circulated.

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 Presentations

10.3.1 Climate Change Centre in the Halifax Central Library – *Ruth Gamberg & Meghan McMorris*

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation request dated April 15, 2019
- A presentation on a proposal for a Climate Change Centre in the Halifax Central Library

Ruth Gamberg and Meghan McMorris, Members of the Ad Hoc Committee for a Climate Change Centre, provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on a proposal for a Climate Change Centre in the Halifax Central Library. Presenters noted that the Ad Hoc Committee and the project is separate from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), though it includes members in common. The presentation outlined the need for a climate change centre and provided proposed designs of physical structures for installation in the library.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, the presenters stated they have previously had discussions with two members of the Halifax Public Library Board five months ago, though they have not had a chance to make a formal presentation before the board. Since then, additional

funding sources may have become available for this project. Presenters also noted that they anticipate volunteer efforts to be a major part of the project in addition to funding.

Several Councillors noted that the library board is independent from Regional Council and HRM, and therefore while the Standing Committee can make a recommendation, this would be limited to being of persuasive value only. Presenters responded by expressing that the reason for the current presentation is to provide an update on the project and to alert the Committee that should the project be approved by the library board, the Ad Hoc Committee would be eager to explore possible sources of municipal funding. Several Councillors stated that presenters may wish to speak with staff regarding the HRM climate management strategy to explore how strategies might align on this project.

Responding to questions from members of the Standing Committee, the presenters stated they have not explored alternative locations as of this time.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee request a staff report exploring the feasibility of a climate change centre in the Halifax Central Library.

Several Councillors stated that it would be premature to request a staff report, and that the Committee should provide time for the Ad Hoc Committee to engage in further discussion with the Library Board. Several other Councillors stated that the benefit of supporting a staff report would be to give staff clear and formal direction.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the presentation.

10.3.2 Energy Retrofits and Solar City Financing of Energy Retrofits – Emma Norton, Ecology Action Centre

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation request dated March 26, 2019
- A presentation on Energy Retrofits and Solar City Financing of Energy Retrofits

Emma Norton, Energy Conservation Coordinator for the Ecology Action Centre, acknowledged the unceded Mi'kmaq territory and provided the Standing Committee with a presentation on Energy Retrofits and Solar City Financing of Energy Retrofits. This presentation discussed several topics, including:

- The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, an Efficiency Nova Scotia partnership program with municipalities;
- International Energy Agency figures regarding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets necessary to stay below two degrees of global warming;
- The two-third share of greenhouse gas emissions generated by buildings and the corresponding value of addressing this emission source;
- The transferability of energy efficiency skills training in Nova Scotia and Canada; and
- The benefits of encouraging home-owners, renters, and small building operators to invest in solar and energy efficiency retrofitting projects;

Several Councillors expressed support for the PACE program and noted that with respect to the current Solar City financing there are remaining funds available for residents wishing to subscribe to the program though it has been generally very successful with over eight million dollars granted to retrofitters over three years.

The Chair thanked the presenter for the presentation.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Case 22037: Options for the Elimination of Drive-Through Facilities - Planning and Development

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated May 4, 2019

Several Committee members noted that they had received expressions of concern from some residents regarding the elimination of drive-through facilities relating to a loss of convenience for persons with accessibility challenges, as well as for persons who benefit from the feeling of safety offered during late-night service. Several councillors expressed a preference to work with the restaurant industry to determine best options for how drive-through facilities can be appropriately used. Other Councillors expressed comfort with the current proposal at this stage to consider options including possible planning amendments. Several members noted that as of this time, there are no formal recommendations, and the Committee may benefit from further information regarding possible options. Some Councillors expressed concern with leaving this issue to industry self-regulation. Some members expressed concern with the litter generated from drive-through businesses.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review options for limiting new and expanded drive-throughs, as part of the plan and by-law simplification program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes – June 6, 2019

This matter was dealt with in public.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mancini

THAT the In Camera (In Private) Minutes of June 6, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited members of the public wishing to address the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee to come forward.

Jennifer Radcliffe, a resident of Highfield Park in Dartmouth, spoke to the Standing Committee about the need for the Municipality to take a leadership role in facilitating the use and investment in instream hydroelectric turbine technology and generators. They noted that instream generators will play an increasing role in addressing emission reduction targets in the coming years. They requested that the Standing Committee keep this in mind in the future when matters relating to hydroelectric generation come forward. In response to the comments, a Councillor added that instream generators have been proposed for the Eastern Shore Lions Club for the West River, and there may be an opportunity to test the technology.

The Chair called three (3) times for any further members of the public wishing to come forward to address the Standing Committee. There being none, Public Participation was closed.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 1, 2019

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant