



SAINT JOHN CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday July 27th, 2011

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Brunswick Square Storefront

PRESENT: Anne McShane
Heather Quinn
Gerry Lowe
Shawn Peterson
Sara Mudge
Patty Higgins
David Drinnan
Ann Crozier
Mokhtaria Benhatchi
Andrew Miller

STAFF: Sarah Herring, Planner
Jody Kliffer, Planner
Stacey Forfar, Planner
Mark Reade, Planner
Ali Ikram, Planner
Jill Flecknell, Recording Secretary
Colleen O'Connor, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Peter McGuire
Barry Harbinson
Derrick Mitchell

1.0 Welcome and Review of Regrets

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and advised the Committee that Peter McGuire, Derrick Mitchell, and Barry Harbinson had sent their regrets.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

It was **MOVED** by Patty Higgins, **SECONDED** by Heather Quinn to approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED.

3.0 Adoption of Minutes

It was **MOVED** by Sara Mudge, **SECONDED** by Heather Quinn to adopt the July 13th, 2011 minutes as presented.

CARRIED.

4.0 Review of Recommended Response to Up for Review Public feedback

Jacqueline Hamilton advised the Committee that the feedback received during the “Up for Review” public engagement and the month long review period for the Municipal Plan was significant; with about 90 people attending the Open House and more than 73 written submissions received from many individuals, organizations as well as various City Departments involved on the Plan SJ Steering Committee. Ms. Hamilton noted that letters were distributed to individuals and groups who made a submission advising that their issues were under consideration and that a “Response to Public Input” document and a final Public Engagement Report would be available in late summer / early fall advising of the changes made to the Municipal Plan in response to comments. Jacqueline added that in most cases clarification was all that was needed and a few errors in the Plan and maps were picked up and were corrected along the way. The City’s Legal Department is also helping clarify language and interpretation of the document adding further strength to the policies. Planning staff has also reviewed and made changes to all of the metrics for each chapter that will be used to measure the outcomes of the new Municipal Plan and better align with the goals as well.

Jacqueline explained that since the Land Use map for the new Municipal Plan outlines the Primary Development Area, staff will draft a communication highlighting the options for rural development when the Plan goes to Council in the fall. During the one month public review, citizens were asked to test the Plan and see how it fits in with their situations. Jacqueline highlighted that staff had made some corrections and changes to the Land Use map designations.

She requested the feedback of the Committee regarding a change of policy that would recognized the Airport as having the potential for development should at some time a sound business case be brought forth for land development. Some Committee members expressed concerns regarding the assumed obligation that the City would need to extend services to a potential development. Jacqueline added that there would be clear policy in place that would ensure that if land development took place the City would not be obligated to extend infrastructure. Jacqueline reminded the Committee that the Municipal Plan will be a living document for which Common Council has the ability to make changes to the Plan. She explained that in the Airport Policy could aid in clearing up some of the concerns that may arise and hinder the adoption of the Plan. Committee members discussed this change and came to the conclusion that this change should not be accepted as there was

plenty of time for the Airport to review it and request changes in the earlier stages.

Anne McShane requested that Derrick Mitchell review the Environment chapter to ensure the correct buffering and definition of wetlands. Jacqueline responded that it is staff's preference to refer to the Provincial requirements as they have the authority and expertise in this area. Sarah Herring explained that a buffer is in place for 30 meters around water courses and wetlands and that this is displayed on the maps.

Jacqueline explained that there were a few policy changes made to have more efficient transit between key destinations. In light of the One Mile Interchange being created, truck routes will be reviewed to ensure the best routing. Dave Drinnan expressed his concerns with the commuter rail idea creating a benefit more for the outlying areas rather than the City of Saint John. Mark Reade explained that while it is beneficial for the outlying areas, there are many advantages for the Uptown of Saint John as it would make available more parking, improve air quality. The Committee felt that this policy should be left in the Plan, as it called for a feasibility study to be conducted. A clause was added to the commuter transportation policy about maximizing benefit to the City of Saint John.

Under the Energy Efficiency section, Jacqueline explained that a metric was added to measure the number of LEED or similarly certified buildings.

Concerning the Arts & Culture & Heritage chapter Dave Drinnan expressed his concerns that only Saint John artists should benefit from the "1% for Public Art Fund" or any City Art Grants. The Committee discussed that there may not be a pool of local artists available depending on the art project required. Jacqueline was concerned that such a significant policy might not be noted by Council when the Plan is adopted and that she would prefer a discussion with Council take place. Sarah Herring suggested that perhaps the policy could read that Saint John artists take priority over others. The Committee voted that they would like the policy to be for Saint John artists only.

Committee members discussed the topic of storm water management. Jacqueline explained that other municipalities such as Fredericton and Moncton use similar policies as Saint John when it comes to stormwater management. Sarah Herring suggested that be more public education and engagement concerning the development of stormwater management plans and the criteria that will be requested should help to alleviate developer's concerns.

MOVED by Gerry Lowe, **SECONDED** by Andrew Miller, to endorse the revised version of the Municipal Plan as presented in Attachment two for the purposes of translation and commencement of Council's formal adoption process, subject to amendments.

Patty Higgins explained that she was not in agreement with the designation of one particular piece of land.

CARRIED,

NAY Patty Higgins.

6.0 Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the CAC will be scheduled for a date in September for the Committee to review the documents prior to the Common Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Jacqueline Hamilton,
Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Development