



MEETING MINUTES

Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee (MCESC)

Thursday, February 4, 2021

A meeting for MCESC was held via video conferencing on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

1. Welcome, attendance & regrets

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm by Chair, Warden John Cunningham with the following in attendance: Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, Councillor Daniel Allen, Warden Danny Muise, Deputy Warden Nicole Albright, Councillor Guy Surette, Mayor Pam Mood, Deputy Mayor Steve Berry and Councillor Gil Dares.

Also present were CAO Jeff Gushue, CAO Victoria Brooks, CAO Alain Muise, Municipal Clerk/Communications Officer Victoria Pearce, TOY Engineer Marc Brophy and Lindsay Mackinnon— Municipal Clerk / Executive Assistant

Additionally there were the following observers: Councillor Jim Macleod, Councillor Loren Cushing, Mike C, Councillor Nick Hilton, Councillor Sheri Hurlburt, Warner Comeau.

2. Approval of the Agenda (additions/deletions)

It was moved by Mayor Pam Mood, seconded by Warden Danny Muise to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes of October 15th, 2020

It was moved by Councillor Guy Surette, seconded by Councillor Daniel Allen to approve the minutes of October 15th, 2020 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

3.5 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

3.5.1 Nominations for Chair

It was moved by Warden Danny Muise, seconded by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham to nominate Warden John Cunningham as Mariners Centre Expansion Committee Chair.

Motion carried unanimously.

Warden John Cunningham accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Councillor Guy Surette, seconded by Councillor Gil Dares that nominations cease.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

There being no further nominations, Warden John Cunningham was declared Chair.

3.5.2 Nominations for Vice-Chair

It was moved by Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham, seconded by Warden Danny Muise to nominate Mayor Pam Mood for the position of Vice Chair.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Mayor Pam Mood accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Warden Danny Muise, seconded by Councillor Gil Dares for nominations to cease.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Mood was declared Vice-Chair

4. Old Business

4.1. Sub-Committee Appointments –following the municipal elections and additions to the committee from each council, it is necessary to re-confirm the sub-committee appointees.

4.1.1. Previous New Build Subcommittee – Mayor Mood, Chair; Warden Danny Muise; (then) Deputy Warden John Cunningham

The committee agreed on the following members to make up the New Build Subcommittee:

1. Warden John Cunningham
2. Councillor Gil Dares
3. Warden Danny Muise

4. Mayor Pam Mood
5. Deputy Warden Nicole Albright

4.1.2. **Previous Bridge Subcommittee** – Deputy Mayor Mooney, Chair;
Councillor Daniel Allen; (then) Deputy Warden Guy Surette

The committee agreed on the following members to make up the Bridge Subcommittee:

1. Councillor Daniel Allen
2. Deputy Mayor Steve Berry
3. Councillor Guy Surette
4. Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Allen, seconded by Councillor Guy Surette to appoint the members to both subcommittees as listed above.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. New Business

5.1. Building Program Workshop – through their work with EXP engineers and architects, the New Build Subcommittee recognizes the main MCESC group needs to confirm the “program spaces” which are anticipated to be included in the expansion project. The previous proposal to government was too expensive. The sub-committee has struggled to reach a less expensive proposal that has a high level of confidence in providing expected program spaces.

5.1.1. Goal of the Process

CAO Brooks noted the goals of the workshop are:

1. Through a historical review, bring members of the committee to a more even understanding of the project.
2. Learn through observations of recent visits to similar facilities
3. Choose and define specific programmable spaces
4. Understand what the cost (order of magnitude) of those space choices is likely to be
5. Confirm alignment at the end on direction for the new build Subcommittee to take with consulting engineers and architects.

5.1.2. Historical Review (Jeff Gushue)

CAO Jeff Gushue discussed the history of the project and why we now need to redefine the building program in order to support the process.

5.1.3. Virtual Tour other NS facilities (Dorgam Hideib)

Dorgam Hideib, CEO of the Mariners Centre, reviewed his recent tours of Aquatic/fitness centres in the Province.

Dorgam's main observations centred on the East Hants new facility's dealing of the following points:

1. Accessibility (ramps down to every tank)
2. Add-on's (climbing wall) (water slide not landing in the pool)
3. Large leisure tank (as this is the most used) (ability to split for multi-use)
4. Dressing rooms – prioritized to family or universal change rooms
5. Showers that are in view of the pool – to encourage showering prior to pool use.
6. Enough programmable spaces — generate large amounts of revenue.

5.1.4 Programming Choices (Victoria Brooks)

CAO Brooks lead the exercise to determine which spaces we required.

ITEM	Definition	Description	Consensus
East Hants Version 1.2	3 individual tanks, competitive, recreation, therapeutic	Starting point for looking at a Yarmouth County specific facility added to the MC building – still require community spaces.	
Fitness Space	Square Footage that provides for Cardio and resistance training; open space for various “free moving” activities like yoga	Weights, Bikes,	
Common Spaces	Foyer, gathering spots, tables/chairs.		

Indoor walking Capacity.	Purpose built space (within existing square footage?) for walking/jogging.	2 lanes sufficient circumference to provide a XXXX walking/jogging	
Washrooms	Toilets, sinks, showers	Enough Capacity for total building usage; future proofing considerations (gender/non-binary)	
Access	How people move in and out of the programmed (membership?) spaces.	Exterior and interior doors, guest services, relationship of same to “paid” programming.	

Mariners Centre CEO, Dorgam Hideib noted that he could look into the impact over cost of a 6-lane pool or a 8-lane pool.

Committee Chair, John Cunningham polled the Committee to see if there was consensus to follow the East Hants model presented by Dorgam Hideib.

Consensus was reached to follow the East Hants aquatics model.

5.1.4. Order of Magnitude (Alain Muise)

CAO Alain Muise discussed possible financing scenarios in order to provide context for the committee.

5.1.5. Restating the Goal (Victoria Brooks) – have we arrived where we need to be?

CAO Brooks asked the committee whether the goals were met, she summarized the discussion:

1. We understood the history; we were able to get on the same page regarding where we came from and where we are going.
2. We agree on using the East Hants location as a base, to tweak to our needs.
3. We need very large common spaces
4. We need a walking track

5.2 Expansion Committee Joint Press Release – it is recognized that the community has a high level of interest and engagement on this file. The MCESC framework calls

for public access to updates on the work and approved minutes. Since the election, some residents and media have reached out to selected members of the committee requesting an update. It seems reasonable to craft a release outlining the changes to the committee and the status of the work.

Warden John Cunningham noted that the expansion is of interest to the community and they want to hear what is going on.

CAO Jeff Gushue noted that Mike Carter, his communications lead, would be able to draft a press release for review by the committee.

Points to note regarding the release:

1. The message should be brief
2. Dates of when the subcommittees and committee are going to meet
3. Positive messaging

5.3 Transparency (Mayor Pam Mood)

Mayor Pam Mood noted that the public wants to know what is going on a consistent basis, she noted three items that would increase transparency:

1. Between committees - the sub-committees should keep the main MCESC updated
2. Make sure our Councils are updated on the committees progress
3. Central location for information pieces like minutes, agenda, videos of the meeting etc.

The Committee agreed to archive meeting documents, minutes and videos on the Mariners Centre's website.

6 Bridge of Service (CAO Alain Muise).

To accommodate a Bridge Subcommittee meeting, CAO Gushue will get his staff to send a poll out for next week to look for an amicable date and time.

6. Other Business

6.1. New Build Subcommittee

- 6.1.1. Minutes of November 19th, 2020.

7. Next meeting

Chair, John Cunningham set a tentative next meeting time of February 18th at 3pm.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Councillor Daniel Allen, seconded by Councillor Steve Berry to adjourn the meeting at 6:11pm.

Motion carried unanimously.