

Community Liaison Committee
Minutes of Meeting # 2
Feb 17, 2010

Attendance: Jennifer Watts, Roberta Sharp, Boris Mirtchev, Liz Cunningham, Geoff Wilson, Shelly Sarwal, Lawrence DeWolfe, Louisa Horne, Hilda Power (chair), Susan MacLeod **Regrets:** Marlene Coffey, Rev. Linda Yates

1. Members –

- The manager of Sobeys has decided not to continue as a member of the group because he felt he could not effectively contribute.
- Another member requested that their partner replace them in the group due to the difficulty in attending the meetings in the evenings. This request will be taken to the Implementation Team for consideration.
- One additional person will be added to the group. That person should be a resident in the community but not from the immediate adjacent neighborhood as it is currently well represented. A letter of invitation will be sent to all residents on both sides of Chebucto from Windsor to Oxford, Dublin to Seaforth, North to Robie, including Gladstone, Clifton and Charles Streets.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting – The minutes were approved with corrections to spelling of names. It was decided that since minutes are to be posted on the website the names of those in attendance will be included but the names of persons who raised issues, asked questions, etc will not be included.

3. Ground Rules – The ground rules as compiled from the group's input via email since the last meeting were reviewed and accepted with one additional rule on confidentiality added. The ground rules are:

1. Meetings will start on time
2. Meetings will end on time or upon agreement of the group
3. Notify the chair by email if unable to attend a meeting
4. All viewpoints will be heard, considered and respected
5. One person to speak at a time
6. Listen with attention - deeply, sincerely to what others in the group are saying
7. Speak with intention - say what you mean, and mean what you say
8. Suspend judgment, cynicism and fear
9. Be Curious- seek to understand another's points or perspectives by asking questions
10. If information presented is confidential it is the responsibility of the person speaking to state that it is confidential.

Although not added to the ground rules it was decided that each meeting will end with a check-in with each person as to unfinished discussion. That topic will then be added to the agenda of the next meeting if appropriate.

4. Organizational chart – The organizational chart of St. John’s was distributed along with a brief explanation on how information/input from the Community Liaison Group will be directed within the organization.

5. How we got here – Louisa Horne (co-chair of the Implementation Team) gave a presentation on the history of the redevelopment project. It included a review of the last 5 years of research, consultation and decision making by St. John’s. The options of retrofitting, relocating and redeveloping were reviewed along with the information that led to the redevelopment decision.

6. Questions and Answers - The presentation was followed by a question period summarized as follows:

- Group members do not have to be supportive of the redevelopment project to participate in the group. The purpose of the community liaison group is to hear ideas from the neighborhood.
- Having a better idea of what the plans are for the community space at the mosque being constructed on Charles Street may be important when discussing the community needs for the space at Spirit Place.
- The enriched living model was informed by research on seniors issues, demographics, current residential facilities and congregational concerns.
- The range of church activities is described on the website: www.stjohnsunited.com
- The HRM by Design process may not be looking at this area of the city for 3 – 4 years.
- The information from the presentation was very useful and request was made for it to be made available on the website.
- The group would be interested in meeting with the architects at the next meeting.

7. Final Check –in – Each person was given an opportunity for final comments. These are summarized as follows:

- There is a need to involve the community to learn about their wants and needs regarding space at Spirit Place.
- Allnovascotia.com has included some speculative information in their recent coverage of the project. The mention of an 8 - 9 story building has caused some anxiety.
- The charettes held in Dec 2008 also suggested a large building was needed to make the project viable.
- At this point neither height nor the design of the building is known.

8. Next meeting – March 10, 7pm for 1 – 1.5 hours. The architects will be the major agenda item. The subsequent meeting will be devoted to community needs and communication.