

PORT COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING NOTES

Date: September 10, 2020

Location: The Galley, Halifax Seaport Market Building

Time: 5:00pm to 7.30pm

Chairperson: Sara Colburne

Committee Members in Attendance:

Sarah Austin

Dov Bercovici

Sarah Craig

Juanita Peters

Pam Glode-Desrochers

Wendy Fraser

Magali Grégoire

Jeff Hutt

Waye Mason

Port of Halifax representatives:

Captain Allan Gray, President & CEO

Thomas Hayes, Chair of Halifax Port Authority Board of Directors

Rebecca Bruce, Manager of Strategy and Stakeholder Relations

Maggie Kennedy, Coordinator, Corporate Services

Apologies:

Ossama Nasrallah

Kunjal Sethi

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome by the Halifax Port Authority Board Chair Tom Hayes followed by the introduction of the PCLC Chair and members in attendance. Members were asked *what does being a member of a port city mean to them*.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

Review of the Terms of Reference and Mandate

Confirmed and approved the PCLC Terms of Reference. Discussed the framework and scope of the group. The scope will be robust: what the committee sets to achieve can be driven by members. The goal is to get insight into what the community wants and how they view the port and how the Port is operating.

Discussion on scheduling for future meetings

Members agreed to meet six times a year.

Discussion on visibility of membership list

All members in attendance agreed to their names being visible in public documents.

Action item: Send members a survey to establish next meeting dates well in advance.

3. PRESENTATION

Title: Halifax Port Authority 101

Presenter: Captain Allan Gray

Captain Gray provided an introduction presentation to HPA, including a background on Canadian Port Authorities, the mission, vision and guiding principles for the Halifax Port Authority and an overview of port business and operations: cargo, cruise, and land and water assets.

Presentation Q&A

Members asked questions regarding what the priority projects and other priorities. Captain Gray answered that the current priority projects include moving trucks off the roads downtown core and optimization of cargo terminals. HPA is also working on a funding proposal for a new Marine Container Examination Facility project. Other projects underway are a sustainability plan, diversity, inclusion and engagement plan, optimization of IT processes and an innovation collaboration space.

4. PORT REPORT

Update on port activities and news

Industrial labour action in Montreal

Increase in containerized cargo volume at the Port of Halifax due to cargo being diverted here during industrial action in Montreal. Port partners are working together to learn from this sudden uptick in business and better manage future volume surges. If an event such as a strike should happen again, the Port of Halifax needs to be ready to support this increased cargo.

Green Marine Environmental Certification Program

Port of Halifax scored very high amongst other ports in the program. We have two areas where we can improve: Underwater noise and Community Outreach.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Items brought forth by Committee

Discussion on the lack of Indigenous and African Nova Scotia culture and history awareness along the waterfront; need to find ways within the community to share and tell stories. Proposed that HPA explore possible placemaking opportunities on port property or in conjunction with partners that could be utilized by the Indigenous and African Nova Scotia communities.

Discussion on how Dartmouth plays a role for the port, since the port does not manage land on that side of the harbour. Resolved that the “port city” is not only port lands but areas of the city where the port can be of influence on the activity, both economic and social. This includes all sides of the harbour and related areas of the port supply chain such as Burnside Industrial Park, as an example.

Committee members raised that they agree with the Halifax Port Authority’s Guiding Principles that were presented and acknowledged that there is much work to be done to achieve them.

Discussion on presenter options for upcoming meetings

The Chair explained that input from committee members is needed to plan for upcoming presenters and presentations. The committee will see port city related topics to choose from, as well as be given the opportunity to submit presentation requests.

Action item: Members will be sent a list of presentation topics to review and a request to bring forward other ideas.

Conclusion: Meeting concluded at 7:30 pm

Next meeting: November 2020, TBD.