

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: we want the development approval process to respect our right as citizens to participate

1. HRM should add provisions regarding the “public consultation”, which is required for site plan approval applications under the HRM Charter. These provisions should state that the consultation shall involve the following elements:
 - a. An advertisement in a newspaper, appearing with the other municipal notices of planning meetings, to provide for public notice.
 - b. The right for the public to inspect and obtain copies of documents and plans prior to the public meeting.
 - c. The right for the public to make comments at the public meeting. The meeting should be chaired by an HRM official, or a volunteer from an HRM committee.
 - d. Minutes should be taken by the municipal clerk’s office and made available to the public and to decision making bodies.
2. The design review committee should hear from the public prior to making its decision on site plan approval applications
3. The By-law should specify that any person or community group may appeal the decision of the Design Review Committee to the Council.
4. The By-law should specify that the hearing of the appeal shall be advertised in a newspaper.
5. The Province can be asked for amendments to the HRM Charter. The NDP introduced amendments last November, but these amendments were not supported by the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives. Now that the NDP has a majority, these amendments could be revived and new ones could be added.