



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 21, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Craig Walkinton, Chair  
Mr. Will Robinson-Mushkat  
Ms. Pat Jessup  
Mr. David Sutherland  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Ms. Marilyn Elliott

**REGRETS:** Ms. Renee Gruszecki

**STAFF:** Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events and Cultural Events  
Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer, Parks & Recreation  
Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Policy & Planning  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. and adjourned at 5:10 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Committee agreed to defer the Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair until membership vacancies on the Committee are filled.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 16, 2015**

MOVED by Ms. Marilyn Elliott, seconded by Ms. Pat Jessup,

**THAT the Workshop Notes of September 16, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Mr. David Sutherland, seconded by Ms. Pat Jessup,

**THAT the Minutes of September 16, 2015 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions:

8.1 Update – Fort Needham Park Master Plan – *Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Policy & Planning, HRM Parks & Recreation*

The agenda was agreed upon as amended.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Update – Halifax Regional Council – October 6/15**

- **Proposed Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM, Respecting the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program**

The following was before the Committee:

- An update from the October 6, 2015 session of Regional Council.

Ms. PJ Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects, informed the Committee that Council approved this program and the application form is finished, with minor corrections being completed on the guide. The form will be ready to post soon and notice to the public will be given. The program will likely open on October 30, 2015 and will close on December 18, 2015. The second intake will likely be larger and may open earlier in 2016. Ms. Temple noted that the grants from the first intake will need to be concluded by March 31, 2016.

Councillor Watts questioned if the closing for the intake could be moved to the first week of January. Ms. Temple responded that this wouldn't leave enough time. The Committee discussed the timing and decided to leave the dates as proposed. Ms. Temple advised that she would be notifying the people who have already contacted HRM regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion to advise of the first intake.

The Committee agreed to defer discussion of the December 6, 2017 memorial event to a future meeting due to time constraints.

- **Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Emblem Proposal**

The following was before the Committee:

- An update from the October 6, 2015 session of Regional Council.

Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that Council directed Corporate Communications to develop the emblem as per the Committee's recommendation, and that staff will consult with the Committee in January or February with regard to the emblem design.

#### **4.2 Update – Committee Vacancies**

The Legislative Assistant informed the Committee that there are two vacancies on the Committee under the categories of corporate, government or charitable fundraising and local business community. The application period is currently open and the vacancies should be filled by January.

Councillor Watts noted that all interested members of the public should apply even if they are not in the categories listed for the vacancies, as there may not be applications submitted in these categories.

### **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

#### **6.1 Correspondence**

##### **6.1.1 Correspondence from Rev. Vivien Hannon, St. Mark's Anglican**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Rev. Vivien Hannon, St. Mark's Anglican Church re: description of 1995 time capsule from "Shattered City" by Janet Kitz

The Committee accepted the correspondence. Ms. Taylor submitted information from the Municipal Archives with regard to the contents of the time capsule.

#### **6.2 Petitions – None**

#### **6.3 Presentations - None**

### **7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

#### **7.1. STAFF - NONE**

#### **7.2 COMMITTEE**

##### **7.2.1 Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Draft Recommendation Report – Committee Review and Input**

The following was before the Committee:

- A draft report to staff Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Program Committee Recommendations dated October 14, 2015.

The Chair and staff advised that the recommendation report from the Committee will go directly to staff. Staff will examine the Committee's recommendations and prepare a staff recommendation report to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

The Chair opened up the floor to questions and Ms. Temple asked for clarification of the intent of the recommendations. She commented that it would help if it was specified what recommendations were for the proposed commemorative program and what recommendations were intended for either the capital project or commemorative event.

Ms. Temple also explained that the Committee must be careful not to find itself in a conflict of interest by endorsing events that would then come to the committee by way of the grants program. She suggested that there might be the perception of preferential treatment if projects proposed by Committee members are then chosen for funding.

Councillor Watts echoed Ms. Temple's advice that the Committee can not be seen to be endorsing projects that could potentially come through the grants program. She suggested that the Committee could recommend projects to staff as potential HRM events.

The Chair questioned what the Committee's role is in regard to the commemorative grants program. Ms. Temple explained that the Committee would receive a report from staff with recommendations for awards, as well as a list of submissions that were not recommended for grants or were found ineligible. The Committee will then accept the recommendation or put forward an alternate recommendation to the Grants Committee. The Grants Committee will then debate the recommendations and would send a report to Council for the final decision. Ms. Temple reiterated that in order to vote on the projects recommended for grants, Committee members must be impartial or remove themselves from the discussion and vote, declaring a conflict of interest.

The Committee discussed how to reorganize the report and the best manner for proceeding with the recommendations. Committee members agreed to organize the 44 recommendations into three categories as follows: A. – Recommendations to staff for HRM-owned events as part of the proposed commemorative program (ideas shared with the Committee by members); B. Recommendations to staff to contact the contributors (ideas brought to the Committee by both members and non-members); and C. Large-scale projects that fall outside the scope of the municipal commemoration.

The Committee organized the recommendations as follows:

**A. Recommendations to staff for HRM-owned events as part of the proposed commemorative program:**

1. Symbolic Markers
2. Install the names of the fatalities on the Fort Needham Bell Tower
3. Project names of causalities and images on a building in Halifax
6. Candlelight procession to Fairview Cemetery or other significant sites
7. Historical Campaign
9. Commemorative Flower Bed – Public Gardens
10. Commemorative Flower Bed – Bridge Commission (Staff Follow Up – application?)
11. Historical Markers with Scan Codes
12. Campaign of Kindness
13. Interactive Online Platform
16. Time Capsules (maybe a gift from the Committee)
17. Commemorative Bell (in partnership with Navy)
20. To be engaged in future stakeholder meetings – contact by Staff
21. Encourage Fire Department participated

- 24. Designate the Hydrostone as a Heritage District (already suggested to Staff)
- 26. Historic Banners and Panels
- 29. Placemaking Projects in Fort Needham Park (already in place)
- 31. Place explosion themed planners on lampposts

**B. Recommendations to staff to contact the contributors:**

- 4. Exhibits of artwork by Lismer and Syliboy
- 8. Academic/Heritage Conference
- 14. Animated Walking Tour
- 19. Interview Descendants – hopefully something will come forward
- 22. Local Church Engagement
- 23. Plaque commemorating Hugh John MacLennan
- 25. Interview Survivor's Descendants
- 27. Hope and Survival – Quilt
- 28. Interest in the Mary Baker Eddy Library
- 30. Sails
- 32. Ideas for excerpt from Barometer Rising
- 33. Original composition song Fire in the Harbour
- 34. Possibility of creating a statue memorial at Fort Needham Park representing the nurses of Halifax...
- 35. Multiple Idea for Commemoration
- 35 (a.)– Inclusion of novel Tides of Honour
- 36. Write and publish novel about Halifax Explosion based on historical research and family stories.
- 37. Veith House
- 38. Rename the Hydrostone District “Richmond Heights.” – Jennifer send link to naming policy
- 39. Creation of a musical composition
- 40. Presentation on commemoration plans H&S association
- 41. Symphonic composition
- 42. Use of pre-1917 model railroad slideshow
- 43. Use of picture book Explosion News
- 44. Lasting memorial to Vincent Coleman – Councillor Watts working on it.

**C. Large-scale projects that fall outside the scope of the municipal commemoration:**

- 5. Commemorative Fire Cauldrons
- 15. Re-enactment of the arrival of the train carry humanitarian assistance
- 41. Symphonic composition and commemorative performance

The Committee discussed the need to be sensitive when considering proposals from potential sponsors.

The Committee decided to discard recommendation 18. Refugee Tent Camp Reenactment, as it would likely not be worth the work it would require.

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1** Update – Fort Needham Park Master Plan – *Mr. Peter Bigelow, Parks & Recreation*

Mr. Bigelow explained to the Committee that staff are going over the master plan and next steps for Fort Needham. They have presented the plans to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED), who have agreed to endorse the plans and forward

them to Regional Council. The report from CPED will likely come to Council in the next few sessions.

Mr. Bigelow informed the Committee that comments are starting to come back on the master plan, many from dog-owners who are concerned about losing the park as an off-leash dog area. Mr. Bigelow clarified that Fort Needham is still intended as an off-leash dog area, though off-leash services in HRM are currently under review.

Councillor Watts stated that, as the Councillor for the area, she is in support of the off-leash dog park, and added that she has heard from many people who are in favour of the changes, while still concerned about losing the park as an off-leash dog area. She explained that she has heard from others who are nervous that the status of the memorial will impact the park's role as a community space, and others who are excited about the improvements, such as the much-needed washroom facilities. Councillor Watts explained that after three Public Information Meetings and an online survey, there have been a lot of changes implemented in the program based on feedback from the public. She concluded with an explanation that community members want it to be a park of the future.

Mr. Bigelow agreed to bring an overlay of the park to the November meeting.

Ms. Taylor agreed to move the discussion about the Commemorative Event to the December meeting.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, November 18, 2015 – 3:00 – 5:00, Room B239, NSCC, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Cathy Collett  
Legislative Support