



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 20, 2016**

PRESENT: Mr. Craig Walkington, Chair  
Ms. Marilyn Elliott  
Ms. Pat Jessup, Vice Chair  
Mr. William Robinson-Mushkat  
Mr. David Sutherland  
Mr. Barry Cahill  
Mr. Dan O'Brien  
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Ms. Renee Gruszecki

STAFF: Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Billy Comer, Civic Events Coordinator, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Jonathan Wilkie, Marketing Manager, Corporate Communications  
Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects  
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Advisory Committee are available online:  
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/160420heaac-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:25 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 27, 2016**

Mr. Dan O'Brien noted that his name is recorded as Dan Brown in the January 27, 2016 minutes

MOVED by Mr. Dan O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Pat Jessup

**THAT the minutes of January 27, 2016 be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

MOVED by Mr. David Sutherland, seconded by Mr. Dan O'Brien

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

**7.1.1 Correspondence from Mr. Peter MacGowan**

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Peter MacGowan regarding the grandson of Vince Coleman's participation in the 100<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Halifax Explosion.

The Committee agreed to refer this piece of correspondence to Special Events staff.

**7.1.2 Correspondence from Mr. Nathan Laird**

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Nathan Laird regarding a custom build table with a connection to the Halifax Explosion.

Ms. Peta-Jane Temple indicated that Grants staff could suggest other venues through which the table could be shared. The Committee agreed to refer the correspondence to Grants staff. Mr. Barry Cahill commented that the Dr. Fraser-Harris report is a significant document and that Dr. Murray has done a lot of research on the subject. The Committee agreed that Mr. Cahill would pass along the contact information for Dr. Murray and that the Legislative Assistant will forward the contact information to Mr. Laird.

7.1.3 Correspondence from Ms. Janet Maybee

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Ms. Janet Maybee regarding an invitation from Corporate Communications staff to participate in public engagement for the Halifax Explosions 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary emblem

It was noted that the Legislative Assistant has already responded to this e-mail.

7.1.4 Correspondence from Mr. Ken Isles

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Ken Isles regarding a DVD of an interview with Mr. James Claes, Explosion Survivor.

The Committee questioned whether it would be possible to extend invitations to known survivors to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration ceremony and to reserve seats in the tent for survivors. Committee members questioned whether a call for survivors would go out in 2017. The Committee agreed to refer this correspondence to Special Events staff for response.

7.1.5 Correspondence from Mr. Jim Petrie

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Jim Petrie regarding a potential musical about the Halifax Explosion.

The Committee agreed to refer this correspondence to Grants staff.

7.1.6 Correspondence from Mr. Hugh MacKay

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Hugh MacKay regarding the 2017 Doors Open event.

The Committee agreed to refer this correspondence to Grants staff.

7.1.7 Correspondence from Ms. Angela Archer

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Ms. Angela Archer regarding the recollections of the Explosion as written by her mother.

Committee members noted that this is a valuable contribution that speaks to the need for an internet platform for sharing stories. Ms. Temple agreed to consider the correspondence further and the Committee decided that it would be addressed again at the next meeting.

7.1.8 Correspondence from Ms. Janet Maybee

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Ms. Janet Maybee regarding errors on the HRM website section entitled "History of the Halifax Explosion."

Mr. John Wilkes, Corporate Communications, explained to the Committee that the information found in this section of the website comes from a 20 year-old visitor guide. The Committee discussed the difficulty in deciding how to update the information. Staff explained that HRM does not have a Municipal Historian and there is no budget to hire a historian for this matter. The Committee considered the difficulty in updating the historical account when there are many elements of the history for which subject matter experts have not reached a consensus. Committee members commented that it would be advisable for

the Municipal Archives to play a role in updating this information. Mr. Cahill and Mr. Sutherland agreed to review any new material provided before it is published on the website.

Committee members noted that the focus should not be on assigning fault for the explosion and that the act of blaming is a distraction from the disaster of the explosion. The Committee agreed it is important not to perpetuate myths in the presentation of this history. Committee members indicated that it would be advisable for HRM to take a position on the historical elements of the Explosion as part of communicating what it is that is being commemorated.

Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Cahill agreed to provide advice on the historical accuracy of any updated material.

#### 7.1.9 Correspondence from Ms. Gloria Stephens

The following was before the Committee:

- A letter from Ms. Gloria Stephens regarding a grant application from Nursing History Nova Scotia.

The Committee noted that this correspondence raises the larger issue of who would be included in the interpretation plan for Needham Park. Ms. Temple explained that Municipal Grants cannot be given for HRM assets. The Committee agreed that it will be beneficial to continue this conversation at a later date after receiving an update from Parks staff on the interpretation plan.

#### 7.1.10 Correspondence from Mr. Leon Matthys

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Leon Matthys requesting an update on the consideration of his stamp collection.

Ms. Temple informed the Committee that she had responded to Mr. Leon's initial correspondence by e-mail on January 27, 2016. The Committee agreed that, while it is certainly an interesting project, there is no forum for it within the HRM commemorative plan.

#### 7.1.11 Correspondence from Ms. Pamela Whelan

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Ms. Pamela Whelan regarding volunteer opportunities for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative ceremony

The Committee noted that an interactive web platform for commemoration events and projects could facilitate a way for volunteers connect with the organizers of commemorative events. Staff explained that HRM does not bring on volunteers, except in the form of volunteer Committee Members. Staff noted that Open Doors Halifax is frequently looking for volunteers and that it would be advisable to inform Ms. Whelan of this. The Legislative Assistant agreed to respond to Ms. Whelan.

#### 7.1.12 Correspondence from Ms. Sandy Collins

The following was before the Committee:

- A letter from Ms. Sandy Collins regarding the RADD quartet.

The Committee referred this correspondence to Grants staff for response.

#### 7.1.3 Correspondence from Mr. Rolly Trepanier

The following was before the Committee:

- An e-mail from Mr. Rolly Trepanier regarding photographs related to the Halifax Explosion.

The Committee referred this correspondence to Municipal Archives Staff.

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentation – None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Memorandum from Staff regarding Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grant Program Update – Ms. Peta-Jane Temple**

The following was before the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated March 16, 2016

Ms. Temple thanked the Chair for attending the Grants meeting at which the HEAAC Grant recommendations came forward. She commented that the Grants Committee accepted all of the HEAAC Committee's recommendations.

Ms. Temple explained that Staff would like to revise the Grants Program Guidebook for the next intake of Special Halifax Explosion Grants, replacing the images with local photographs and art. The Committee discussed the timing for the next Grants Program launch. The Committee agreed that September 1, 2016 would be a good launch date.

Ms. Temple informed the Committee that she will propose several minor amendments to the Grants Program at the next meeting of HEAAC.

**9.1.2 Update regarding Commemorative Emblem - Mr. Jonathan Wilkie**

The following was before the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee:

- *A powerpoint presentation regarding the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Emblem*

Mr. Jonathan Wilkie explained that the feedback from the public engagement conducted on the Commemorative Emblem went into a document and will inform the creative brief prepared by an external consultant. He explained that HRM staff are working with the Provincial and Federal governments and will collaborate with the Province on a website.

Responding to questions of clarification from Committee members, Mr. Wilkie informed the Committee that it would not be possible for the Committee to view the early proposals for the Commemorative Emblem, but that the consultants would be provided with the vision statement and guiding principles composed by the Committee and approved by Council.

The Committee expressed concern about not having any further role in the Commemorative Emblem process.

Mr. Wilkie briefly described what the proposed website would entail. The Committee discussed the format of the proposed website, commenting that it does not speak to the need for an interactive platform or a forum for sharing stories and projects.

Ms. Temple suggested that it would be helpful if Mr. Wilkie came back with a memo from staff outlining a clearer picture of what the website would include.

The Committee agreed to discuss this matter further at the May meeting.

**9.2 COMMITTEE**

With the consent of the Committee, Councillor Jennifer Watts briefly raised the subject of the time capsule. The Committee discussed Janet Kitz's work with the time capsule and agreed that it would be advisable to invite her to discuss her work at the June Committee meeting.

Ms. Temple agreed to consider the time capsule further and provide suggestions to the Committee on the matter at a future meeting. The Committee considered having the creation of a new time capsule as a project of the Committee and adding it as a line item on all agendas going forward. The Committee agreed to decide upon this at a future meeting, after hearing back from Grants staff.

The Legislative Assistant agreed to work with staff on inviting Ms. Janet Kitz to the June meeting of the Halifax Explosion Anniversary Advisory Committee.

**10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council Meeting Space, Main Floor, Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Cathy Collett  
Legislative Assistant