

Report of PPPAC Meeting – Thursday, Jan 10, 2008

Present – Janet Kitz, Paul Doane, Allan Robertson, Harald Norve, Duncan Morum, Gerrie Masters, Sue Uteck, Peter Bigelow, Stewart MacMillan, Brian Phelan

Regrets – Anne West, Kate Greene, Phil Read, Vivek Tomar, Leanne Chisholm, Stephen Rice

Venue – Point Pleasant Lodge

1) Update on PPP Master Plan – Peter Bigelow reported that production of the Master Plan and Management Plan was delayed again. The HRM staff members over-seeing production met on January 10th for a thorough review of the plans to date. Their comments will be provided to the consulting team within the following two weeks, and the team will be given a further two weeks to complete the reports. If they are ready by then, they will be distributed to the PPPAC and the HRM technical review group prior to the next PPPAC meeting. **NOTE** – subsequent discussions with Peter Bigelow indicate that the report is not expected to be ready for presentation until mid-March.

In the absence of the Master Plan, Stewart MacMillan provided a publication from the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers upon which much of the philosophy of that part of the Master Plan dealing with protection of the PPP forest ecosystem is based. The document, *Defining Sustainable Forest Management in Canada*, proscribes a framework of criteria and indicators to ensure sustainable forest management. It is too large to circulate easily, but will be available for review at the next meeting.

2) Planning for a PPP foundation – Allan Robertson met with Councillor Sue Uteck on the need for a PPP foundation that is arms-length from HRM. She agreed that such an arrangement would provide higher financial returns than a fund managed by HRM, and would appeal to donors and philanthropists more than an HRM-administered foundation. She agreed to arrange a meeting with the CAO and the legal department to discuss the modalities of establishment such a foundation.

3) Park roads winter maintenance – Allan Robertson met with Councillor Sue Uteck on the need for better PPP winter maintenance, and for PPP management in general. She was very supportive. She had received many complaints about winter maintenance in the Park, and had herself written to the responsible staff department requesting that the Supervisor responsible for park management be reassigned back to park management after being used as a night shift supervisor over-seeing snow clearing operations. She suggested a separate letter from the PPPAC might help. Allan agreed to prepare and send such a letter (hand-delivered to the Mayor's office on January 30th).

Other Business

4) Shakespeare by the Sea – Elizabeth Murphy of Shakespeare by the Sea asked to meet with the committee to learn if the new Master Plan would affect the theatre's operations. In the absence of the Plan, there was little the committee could tell her. She wanted to ensure that Shakespeare by the Sea would be part of the planning process, and she was assured by Committee members that it would be.

5) Flags for dog dirt – Stewart displayed a number of small, highly visible, day-glow-orange flags on sticks about a metre long. The flags were used for marking the locations of dog leavings in another park, and were reportedly effective in encouraging owners to pick up after their dogs. They will be used in PPP from time to time to identify canine transgressions. The meeting was told that most owners know exactly which owner is responsible, and that peer pressure is expected to be helpful.