

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

October 8, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Gerrie Masters, Chair
Mr. Harald Norve, Vice-Chair
Mr. Phillip Read
Mr. Don Await
Mr. Duncan Morum
Councillor Sue Uteck
Ms. Janet Kitz, Honourary Member

REGRETS: Mr. Douglas Keefe
Mr. Bernard Badley
Ms. Kate Greene
Ms. Lisa Olie

STAFF: Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning
Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces
Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Ms. Jill Doane, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Duncan Morum, called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. in the Point Pleasant Park Office and Maintenance Building, without quorum present

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 9, 2009

This item was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS - NONE

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Volunteer Update – Staff

This item was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009.

4.2 Archeological Update – Staff

Mr. Bigelow provided the archeological update and advised that HRM had an arrangement with the Metro universities for cooperative research and student projects for the areas that the universities occupied. HRM had struck an agreement with St Mary's University and Mr. Jonathan Fowler, Professor of Archeology, who teaches the class Urban Archeology of Halifax. Mr. Bigelow advised that HRM would provide \$5,000 a year to Mr. Fowler's class for various services such as materials and a website. Mr. Bigelow indicated that Mr. Fowler would be using HRM owned sites for their research and fieldwork and the first project they were looking at is Point Pleasant Park. The projects they are looking at are as follows:

- Transaction across a roadway of which they had several candidates to choose from;
- In front of Cambridge Battery on Heather Road, planning to transect through that to see how and when it was built and also to attempt to uncover any undisturbed soil to extract pollen and seed material to get an idea of what the historic forest cover was there;
- Begin to inventory, properly record and CPS all of the graffiti and rock art work throughout the park.

Mr. Bigelow advised that this was an outreach project and all information would be made available. The project was meant to promote the park and archeology, therefore, links will be provided on the HRM website.

4.3 Federal Funding – Staff

The Point Pleasant Park Federal Stimulus Package Candidate Projects report dated October 2009 was circulated to the committee at this time.

Mr. Bigelow advised that the Federal Stimulus Package is providing two million dollars to Point Pleasant Park with no limitations except that the money must be spent by March 31, 2011. He indicated that the circulated report outlined several options regarding how to use the funding. A discussion ensued and the Committee agreed that the high priority projects would be:

- C The upper parking lot, entrance and trees
- C Point Pleasant Battery repairs
- C Various other battery repairs
- C Public washroom

It was decided that Mr. Bigelow would take the Committee's suggestions and provide a cost analysis breakdown at the next meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Terms of Reference - Update on Status of Amendments

This item was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

Correspondence from Mr. Shaun Heffernan was circulated, a discussion ensued regarding the correspondence. The Committee agreed that anything that could improve public use and understanding of the park should be embraced and endorsed, therefore they would be happy to respond positively to Mr. Heffernan. Mr. Bigelow advised that staff and the Committee would meet with Mr. Heffernan in order to give him the best sites to meet the criteria within Point Pleasant Park.

Ms. Gerrie Masters entered the meeting at 5:13 pm.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Delegations

6.3.1 Filming in HRM – Ms Colleen Connolly, Cultural Events and Film Liaison

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks, provided a brief introduction and background on park booking. He explained that the park did their own bookings, however this takes up so much time, they would be moving to the booking office on Jan 1, 2010. They would put together a document describing the rules and regulations for bookings, identifying which sites can accommodate certain events. Mr. Rice will bring this document to the committee at a future date for review and comments. Mr. Rice advised that the largest requests they received were for films of all sizes and introduced Ms. Connolly to explain how the film office goes about looking after these projects.

Ms. Connolly advised that her department receives many requests however the film industry was hesitant to use the park as it was a protected area, noting that her department would like to make the process easier for everyone involved. Ms. Connolly suggested that staff review each request on a case by case basis as the length of time required for production could vary from a few days to three months. She stated that this was an opportunity for these films to showcase Point Pleasant Park on an international level.

The Committee's concerns regarding this issue included interruption of park usage, damage to the park, service and unsightliness. It was also mentioned that it would be the film crew's responsibility to notify local residents of production schedules.

It was suggested that a form be created to show in detail what was needed and expected and if a policy was created people from the film industry should be involved in its creation.

Ms. Connolly stated that there was currently a request to do a feature film in Point Pleasant Park and the trailer was being shot on October 17, 2009. Full production would start in the spring of 2010 and would take no more than three months. Mr. Bigelow reminded the Committee that they must take into consideration construction season when booking time and area for productions.

The Committee agreed that as long as it meets the parameters of use, and that park staff are present at all times, this filming is possible. It was decided that Ms. Connolly would provide more details via email to Mr. Rice who would distribute them to the other committee members.

Councillor Sue Uteck left the meeting at 5:30 pm

7. REPORTS

7.1 Sub-Committee For VIP Program - Chair

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was before the Committee. Ms. Masters presented the report and advised that the VIP program was ready to go, however she believed that a subcommittee was required to run the program, recruit and coordinate volunteers. Ms. Masters advised that she would add more details to the MOU with input from Mr. Morum and Mr. Rice. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

7.2 Foundation for Point Pleasant Park – Chair

Ms. Masters advised that there had been no subsequent report to Council on this matter, however previous discussions showed that the Committee was in favour. It was noted that it was easier to raise funds with a specific project in mind. It was suggested that the Committee carry this item forward on the agenda for further discussion.

7.3 Nova Scotia Power Request - Councillor Uteck

On Councillor Uteck's behalf, Mr. Bigelow reported that Nova Scotia Power was doing improvements to the grid due to increasing requirements. He advised that Nova Scotia Power has requested to come down the south side of Point Pleasant Drive with poles, which would entail removing the trees that were currently there. The Committee agreed that underground wiring would be preferred, however, Mr. Bigelow advised that this would cost up to five times more. He also advised that Councillor Uteck was looking for feedback from the Committee to take to HRM Staff. The Committee agreed that the biggest implication would be physical appearance and recommended that the wiring be put underground or not at all.

Ms. Lisa Olie left the meeting at 6:26 pm

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Information Item 1 – Committee Vacancy

Ms. Masters advised that she contacted Dr. Paul Doane and was told that he had resigned from the committee in 2008. The Legislative Assistant will follow up on the matter.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for December 10, 2009.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Jill Doane
Legislative Support