

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES DECEMBER 10, 2009

- PRESENT: Ms. Gerrie Masters, Chair
Mr. Harald Norve, Vice-Chair
Mr. Phillip Read
Mr. Don Awalt
Mr. Duncan Morum
Ms. Lisa Olie
Mr. Bernard Badley
Ms. Kate Greene
- REGRETS: Mr. Douglas Keefe
Councillor Sue Uteck
Ms. Janet Kitz, Honourary Member
- 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. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Municipal Clerk
- GUESTS: Dean Bouchard, Director, Infrastructure, Port of Halifax
Lizzie Dodds, Community Relations, Port of Halifax

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Maintenance Shed/Office, Point Pleasant Park.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Olie noted that she is recorded on page 7 of the October 8, 2009 minutes as having left the meeting, however, she was not present at the meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Norve, seconded by Mr. Read that the minutes of the July 9, 2009 minutes, as distributed, and the October 8, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Masters reported that Mr. Morum has agreed to Chair the Port sub-committee but has asked that more specific Terms of Reference be developed. The Chair and he will work on the Terms of Reference.

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

Defer: 6.3.1 Presentation - Shaun Heffernan - Halifax BioKit to the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for January 14, 2010

Items for next agenda:

Point Pleasant Park Foundation
Federal Funding Priority Projects
NSPI Above Ground Wires
Filming in the Park - Colleen Connolly

MOVED by Mr. Badley, seconded by Mr. Awalt that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Sub-Committee for Volunteers in the Park (VIP) Program

- A copy of a Terms of Reference as prepared by Duncan Morum and a copy of a Terms of Reference as prepared by Gerrie Masters was before the Committee

The Chair introduced the program noting that the first phase was the design of the program. The second phase (to which the Terms of Reference apply) deals with how to engage volunteers. This second aspect has been lead by the Friends of Point Pleasant Park, however, they have been unable to provide sufficient volunteers.

The Committee undertook a review of the proposed Terms of Reference, noting that the two proposals were very similar.

The intent is to undertake a test period, refine the program and then to implement the program fully to the public. Orientation and Education would fall to the sub-committee. Safety and job specific training will be undertaken by staff.

Mr. Bigelow commented that the sub-committee is engaging residents in stewardship of the park. This program will transmit some of the goals, objectives and management philosophy being pursued by the Committee and staff. Safe work practices will be the responsibility of staff. The role of the sub-committee is develop a training program that will educate the public about the park and the management of the park.

Feedback from the volunteers will allow for continuous improvement and enhance the ability to attract volunteers. Guidelines under which to evaluate the program are required and the sub-committee would be responsible for this. Feedback is to be made to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee. These two points are to be included in the Terms of Reference.

The Committee is also to design the tools for recruitment of the volunteers and the testing method. The Terms of Reference should set out how to engage active stewardship and help volunteers/the public to be informed about the Park and the management principles.

It was suggested that an ad be placed with the Ecology Action Centre as one method of recruiting volunteers.

Mr. Bigelow will work with Mr. Morum to revise/update the Terms of Reference, and these will be circulated to the Committee for information.

Note was made that the proposal for a VIP program is in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan for the park.

Mr. Badley suggested that groups such as the Scouts should be contacted when recruiting for volunteers. The Department of National Defence is another possible contact.

Mr. Morum will submit a position paper from the sub-committee at the March meeting of the Committee. The program will be launched in June.

4.2 Update Committee Review Report

Mr. Bigelow and Ms. Murphy provided a brief update. The report was considered by the Committee of the Whole Council on November 17, 2009. Staff has been asked to respond to concerns/questions of Council in a report which will be tabled early in the new year. Mr. Bigelow noted that consideration of Committee reform is in the initial stages.

Ms. Murphy committed to arranging a meeting with Cathy Mellett, Acting Municipal Clerk, lead on the Committee of Council Reform. Ms. Masters and one other member of the Committee will attend. Ms. Masters indicated that her primary concern was the thinking behind this Committee reporting to Community Council. She further indicated that she would like to discuss the amendments proposed to the existing Terms of Reference for the Committee.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Terms of Reference - Update on Status of Request for Amendments

Ms. Masters advised that no action had been taken since the summer with regard to the Terms of References when she was told that a report would be prepared by the Clerk's Office. Ms. Murphy advised that the Acting Clerk, Ms. Mellett, has reviewed the proposed amendments and will be preparing a report. The Point Pleasant Park Committee, like all other Committees of Council, is governed by Administrative Order 1. The proposed amendments exceed the authority set out in Administrative Order 1. As noted above this matter will be the topic of discussion of a future meeting between Ms. Mellett and Ms. Masters.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Letter dated October 20, 2009 from Linda J.B. Frank, Field Unit Superintendent, Mainland Nova Scotia, re 2009 Management Plan - Halifax Defence Complex

- Correspondence dated October 20, 2009 from Linda J.B. Frank, Field Unit Superintendent, Mainland Nova Scotia with Parks Canada was before the Committee.

Ms. Master indicated that the correspondence related to the 2009 Management Plan-Halifax Defence Complex which can be found on line at the Parks Canada Website.

6.2 Petitions

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Presentation - Shaun Heffernan - Halifax BioKit

This matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee in January at which time Mr. Heffernan will have complete information to present.

6.3.2 Presentation - Halifax Port Authority

Representatives of the Halifax Port Authority, Mr. Dean Bouchard, Director, Infrastructure, and Ms. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dodds, Community Relations, gave a verbal update regarding the announcement from Transport Canada for the Atlantic Gateway Project. Mr. Bouchard noted that a variety of projects would be undertaken at the Port and that construction would begin immediately. Mr. Bouchard noted that the primary goal of this meeting for he and Lizzie was to get to know the Board (names and faces) and vice versa. He briefly outlined the Atlantic Gateway Project including four sub-projects.

Container ships are much larger than they once were. The pier at Black Rock Beach will be extended to accommodate more ships along the pier. The Port will also be installing steel posts to protect the pier. This will involve four (4) months of pile driving. The noise will be heard by users of the park. The degree of noise in the parking area is uncertain. The hope is that the work will only need to be carried out during the week. The adjacent sidewalk will be closed during the project and reinstated upon completion.

The larger project is the extension by 250 feet of the pier. This project is still in the design phase and an environmental assessment has yet to be done. The timing of this project is not yet confirmed, however, it will be ongoing during the summer months. Infrastructure monies must be spent within a time line under the conditions of the Infrastructure Program.

In response to a question regarding the possibility of dredging the area around Black Rock Beach, Mr. Bigelow noted that testing has been done and materials are not as bad as expected, but the bottom should not be disturbed. Mr. Bigelow went on to note that there may be some challenges with parking during the summer months as HRM is planning on refurbishing the upper parking lot this summer. Efforts will be made to accommodate parking on Halifax Port lands if possible. The other concern is that the summer of 2010 will see the celebrations for the Navy Centennial. Mr. Bouchard noted that the Port was very aware of this and other large events and will do their utmost to mitigate the impact of construction on these celebrations.

Mr. Bouchard went on to note that work would be undertaken to Marginal Road to reduce the more significant curves on that Road. The proposal is that the Port will purchase a piece of property from CN to enable this project. Mr. Bouchard indicated that the Port is hopeful this project will be complete by late Spring. The last project to be discussed is an updating of the Gate complex at the terminal which will improve the flow of traffic. This will reduce some of the traffic congestion in that area.

Ms. Dodds provided an overview of the communications used to provide information to the public and stakeholders including advertisement, signage and an opportunity for area residents to address questions to the Port. Ms. Dodds indicated that response to date has been positive. She further noted that upon completion of the project there will be a new dog walk near the end of the pier.

Note was made that there was a significant amount of filming in the park and Mr. Rice asked if Colleen Connolly, Civic Events and Festivals Technician, was aware of the Port plans. Mr. Bigelow indicated that he would provide Ms. Connolly with an update and Ms. Dodds noted that as the planning and time lines become more definite, she would provide an update to staff.

Mr. Read and Mr. Morum left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

- **REPORTS**

- **7.1 Staff Update**

Mr. Bigelow provided an update relating to the disposition of monies received through the Federal Economic Action Plan. He noted that a significant amount of preparation has been done in scoping the necessary projects and it has been determined that work will be undertaken on a limited number of specific sites which staff believe will provide the greatest benefit to HRM and its residents.

Mr. Bigelow outlined the proposed projects as follows:

- Parking Lot - renew parking lot in keeping with Comprehensive Plan
- Cambridge Battery - a contribution from Rogers will leverage the Federal funds. Staff have visited other fortifications in order to learn the best approach for restoration of the Battery. Work will include burying a portion of the Battery. Given that there are three (3) different eras of fortification, the work will ensure a representative view and connection to the ocean.

- Pine Road- road work around the eastern wall
- Chain Rock Battery - in keeping with the comprehensive plan regarding the MicMac memorial, this work will provide a simple way to access Chain Rock
- Prince of Wales Tower - clearing out 50-100 feet to provide area for special events.
- Point Pleasant Battery - Roofs to be removed, stairs to the parapet to be repaired, moat to be filled, buildings to be turfed inside with some repair work to be done at the back . Mr. Bigelow indicated that the demolition of the search light is the responsibility of Parks Canada
- Northwest Arm Battery - work to enhance the earth works, work in the area where canons would be located. Attempting to obtain canons from Federal Government. The area around the Battery is to be cleared as open space.
- Fort Olgilvie- the yard is to be re-graded, the open field is to be re-sodded, construction work to the fortification, recreation of one end of the moat will allow greater understanding of the site. The intent is to allow the space to be more usable while protecting the site. In response to a concern expressed by Mr. Awalt that there would be greater access to the little drumlin area given that it is a burial ground, Mr. Bigelow advised that the proposed work will not negatively impact the security of the little drumlin area. Port Olgilvie will be more accessible from the North West Arm.

Note was made that the building at Port Olgilvie is quite unattractive with Peter indicating that staff would keep this in mind during the work.

- Site Signs - Janet Kitz as been assiting to develop the script and work on acquiring reproductions is ongoing. The prose is ready for review/brochures. There will be auditory tour stations throughout the park.
- Point Pleasant Battery - fortifications on Point Pleasant Battery are unsafe. Work will be undertaken to repair the larger fortification, the smaller one will be removed.

Referring to item 6.1.1., Mr. Bigelow noted that the plans are in place for HRM's involvement in this matter and all stakeholders are aware of HRM's process.

In response to a question, Mr. Bigelow advised that the request from Nova Scotia Power relating to the installation of above ground poles on Point Pleasant Drive has been

forwarded to HRM's Streets and Right of Way. No response has been received to date, however, Mr. Bigelow did note that staff would not usually approve such a request.

Mr. Rice advised that winter maintenance would begin next week. Web site will provide information as to what areas of the park will be closed. He further advised that one of the dog parks will be closed. Efforts to ensure compliance with the regulations around cleaning up after dogs have not been successful in the park.

7.2 2010 Meeting Schedule

- A draft meeting schedule for 2010 was before the Committee

Ms. Masters noted that the second Thursday of the month is problematic for her due to a monthly meeting she has in Toronto the day previous. The Committee briefly discussed alternate dates/days. Ms. Murphy will provide the Committee with the dates for both the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month and determine the best meeting day. Meetings will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

8. ADDED ITEMS - None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - To be Determined.

Ms. Olie requested that the Shilling Ceremony be placed on the agenda for the January meeting to allow sufficient time for planning of the event.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 6:25 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Deputy Municipal Clerk