

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLESANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 14, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Mr. Harald Norve
Ms. Lisa Olie
Mr. Chris Crowell
Mr. Bernard Badley

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck
Mr. Phillip Read
Mr. Murray Wilson
Ms. Kate Greene
Mr. Frazer Egerton

STAFF: Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces
Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Ms. Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect
Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy
Mr. Tylor McDuff, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. in the Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, without quorum present.

Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Planning, introduced himself to the Committee and indicated he was sitting in for Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning. Mr. Vodicka also sent regrets for Councillor Sue Uteck.

Ms. Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect, introduced herself to the Committee and indicated that she was replacing Mr. Stewart MacMillan.

Mr. Chris Crowell and Mr. Don Awalt entered the meeting at 4:49p.m. Quorum was achieved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 9, 2010

Amendment:

Mr. Bernard Bradley indicated that on page seven of the minutes, “Mr. Warren McBride” should read “Mr. Roy McBride”.

MOVED BY Mr. Badley, seconded by Mr. Norve, that the minutes of September 9, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Special Events in Point Pleasant Park – Ms. Jessica Carriere-Garwood, Mr. David Bell & Mr. Trent Boswick
- 9.2 Shilling Ceremony Update – Chair
- 9.3 Biosolids Presentation – Mr. Crowell
- 9.4 Halifax Port Authority Construction Update – Mr. Vodicka
- 9.5 Kingfisher Flag – Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks

The Chair suggested that item 9.1 - Presentation regarding Special Events in Point Pleasant Park be considered prior to the Committee’s regular business.

The Committee agreed.

8.1 Special Events in Point Pleasant Park – Ms. Jessica Carriere-Garwood, Mr. David Bell & Mr. Trent Boswick

Correspondence to Councillor Sue Uteck from Ms. Jessica Carriere-Garwood, September 25, 2010 was submitted.

Ms. Jessica Carriere-Garwood introduced herself and explained that she and Mr. David Bell and Mr. Boswick represented a group of dog owners that used Point Pleasant Park regularly and met Saturday mornings between the Sailor's Memorial and the Northwest Arm.

Ms. Carriere-Garwood indicated that Mr. Stewart MacMillan, prior to his departure, would update Mr. Boswick about events planned in the Park and that this information was made available to other dog owners via the group's website. She reported that since Mr. MacMillan's absence, this communication had broken down. Ms. Carriere-Garwood reported that on September 25, 2010, a large running event was underway when the dog owners met in the off leash area. She noted that this caused some tension and anxiety between dog owners and participants.

Ms. Carriere-Garwood suggested that better communication between event organizers and park users would alleviate unnecessary tension and confusion. She added that dog owners used to be aware of when there would be many in the Park and that this communication promoted more responsible dog-ownership.

Ms. Carriere-Garwood reported that she had compiled some suggestions to improve communication and forwarded them to Councillor Sue Uteck. She suggested that organizers of events post information two weeks ahead of time to inform Park users as well as posting the information on the Point Pleasant Park website.

The Chair noted that the Park was a shared resource and indicated that the Committee would discuss with staff about a new liaison.

A discussion ensued regarding how to inform dog owners of upcoming events.

Mr. Rice advised that Mr. MacMillan's duties were currently being filled by a number of staff; indicating that he would be taking over the website.

The Chair suggested that Ms. Carriere-Garwood's suggestions be forwarded to the permit office and that the Point Pleasant Park website link to the dog owner's website (<http://dogs4ppp.wordpress.com/>).

The Chair requested that future correspondence regarding this issue be forwarded to himself and Mr. Rice.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Staff Updates

4.1.1 Construction

Mr. Vodicka introduced Ms. Carolle Roberts to the Committee. He explained that she was Project Manager for all capital construction works, including the construction of the Tower Road parking lot and the Fort Stabilization Project. Mr. Vodicka added that Ms. Roberts was liaising with Ms. Nicole May, Landscape Architect, on the reconstruction of the stone wall on Pine Road and was also assisting with the work on lamp standards.

4.1.2 Tower Road Parking Lot

Ms. Roberts reported that the parking lot construction was about ninety percent complete as the addition of unit pavers was all that remained. Ms. Roberts indicated that the new light standards were on order and that the shop drawings had been approved on September 23, 2010 and would take approximately six to twelve weeks to arrive. Ms. Roberts stated that she was unsure as to why the bus turn-around was not yet complete.

Ms. Roberts reported that there was no specific completion date for the construction. She indicated that there would be approximately one month without any lights in the parking lot; noting that this was not preferred, however, it was either open with no lighting or close the parking lot at dusk.

The Chair advised that signage indicated that the Park was closed due to construction; however, it was actually only the parking lot that was closed. He added that signage and the communication of information was a long standing issue.

Ms. Roberts reported that signage for the Fortification Stabilization Projects has been completed.

A discussion ensued regarding the issue of signs in the Park informing users of changes being made. The Chair indicated that whenever work was being done in the Park, there should be a sign explaining what was happening. He added that signs should be posted ahead of time and certainly when the work begins.

Mr. Vodicka reported on the delay surrounding the availability of signs for the tour markers. He explained that there were inconsistencies in the language and that changes were suggested to some of the information. He noted that on the map, the word Mi'kmaq was misspelled. He added that the changes would have to go back to the community for review.

Mr. Awalt indicated that the document was reviewed and approved by the elders of the Mi'kmaq community and noted that it was not staff's position to edit what the elders had deemed appropriate.

Mr. Vodicka explained that the changes related to the entire document and all thirteen tour markers. He indicated that he would bring bring the entire document for review to the next meeting.

4.1.3 Fortification Stabilization

Ms. Roberts reported that three sites were being looked at for increased stabilization and safety. She added that the tender was in the process of being awarded to Greendale Resources. Ms. Roberts noted that the three sites included Fort Ogilvie, Cambridge Battery, and the Northwest Arm Battery. She explained that repairs were planned for all concrete structures and brick masonry and added that some forts would be entombed to prevent further degradation. She explained that entombing involved burying the structures with dirt.

Ms. Roberts displayed blueprints to explain some of the work. She explained that the older part of Cambridge Battery would be entombed and that they would perform repairs on the case mates and walls. She added that some landscaping would be done as well as removal of vegetation to expose the concrete bracers. She described one of the biggest changes as the building of a two-to-one slope that would leave a portion of the brickwork at the top as a seating arrangement and added it would also prevent access to certain areas. Ms. Roberts also noted that the circular gun chambers would be filled with pea gravel for safety.

Ms. Roberts noted that Fort Ogilvie would not receive as much work. She reported that the concrete would be repaired and the metal would be painted. She indicated the goal was to seal the mortar and increase the watertightness in order to prevent further crumbling. Ms. Roberts explained that Ms. Kelly MacIvors and Mr. Roy McBride were familiar with the types of mortar and techniques used and added that they were also in touch with Parks Canada. She added that Greendale Resources was doing similar work on McNab's Island.

Ms. Roberts reported that Greendale Resources was also responsible for moving the gun and that a new placement for the gun would not be available until October 18, 2010.

Ms. Roberts indicated that the areas were considered construction sites and would be fenced off; noting that signage explaining the work would be posted.

Ms. Roberts reported that the gates of the entrance to the Cambridge Battery would be excavated to create more of an entrance feel. She added that imprints were taken of some of the graffiti on the rock outcropping due to historical significance.

Ms. Roberts explained that work on the Northwest Arm Battery included clearing the vegetation from the earthen ramp to accentuate the form of the structure and sculpting the lawn area. She noted that they were attempting to keep the existing shrubs on the vertical ramparts. Ms. Roberts added that large tree stumps would be removed and the ironwork repainted. She explained that there were erosion problems from people

climbing over certain grassy spots and that a paved area was planned to discourage such activity.

Ms. Roberts reported that an archaeologist would be on hand to ensure there was minimal damage.

Mr. Vodicka explained that staff have been inside the vaults and that the fire department assisted with the scoping of the area.

Mr. Badley left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

4.1.4 Pine Road

Ms. Roberts reported that plans were being made to rebuild and excavate along the road. She added the road would also be regraded.

4.1.5 Victorian Lamp Standards

Mr. Vodicka indicated that broken parts of the current lamps needed to be rewired and recast. He noted that new lumieres had been sourced to recreate an as close as possible look to the originals. He explained that the new lamp standards would be acorn-style hanging lamps.

Ms. Roberts added that the lamps would be put along the paths, on the opposite side from the Lodge.

Mr. Vodicka noted a request from the contractor to put a trailer on-site for construction staff. He indicated that HRM staff were suggesting the lower parking lot or the Martello Tower area due to its proximity to the construction site.

Mr. Vodicka reported that preliminary discussions were underway with respect to an unveiling event.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Special Events in Point Pleasant Park – Jessica Carriere-Garwood, David Bell, Trent Boswick

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

8.2 Shilling Ceremony Update – Chair

The Chair indicated that no date had been set for the Shilling Ceremony; however, scheduling was still being worked on with the Lieutenant Governor. He added that funding was still in place, however, noted the ceremony may need to be moved indoors as it was getting late in the year.

8.3 Biosolids Presentation – Mr. Chris Crowell

Mr. Crowell reported that he had been approached by Ms. Lil MacPherson, owner of the Wooden Monkey Restaurant, who wished to present to the Committee regarding the use of biosolids in the Park.

The Chair requested that this item be arranged through the Legislative Assistant.

8.4 Halifax Port Authority (HPA) Construction Update – Mr. Rudy Vodicka

Mr. Vodicka reported that Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning, in consultation with Mr. Rice, was in communication with the Halifax Port Authority (HPA) concerning a request for more Park space. Mr. Vodicka explained that Mr. Bigelow was in favour of limiting the amount of public Park space being used. He added that a decision would be made in one week. Mr. Vodicka noted that Mr. Bigelow would be responding to HPA's request concerning the area closest to the sea which would be fenced off during construction of the sea wall.

Mr. Rice explained that the project was set to go ahead; however, staff was trying to limit the amount of Park space being used. He reported that HPA was currently seeking a square area in the middle of the lower parking lot and that staff were encouraging a longer and wider space. Mr. Rice noted that once the dimensions were figured out, a map would be posted on the website and that HPA had a sign posted on the side of the fence close to the helicopter pad. He added that the projected duration of the construction was eighteen months.

Mr. Norve left the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

8.5 Kingfisher Flag – Mr. Stephen Rice

Mr. Rice reported that he received communication regarding flying the Kingfisher flag rather than the provincial flag. He drew the Committee's attention to the information item: Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order #19 Respecting the Corporate Coat of Arms and Flag and noted the example on page three of the document.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

October 14, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Tylor McDuff
Legislative Support