

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

November 18, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Mr. Phillip Read
Mr. Harald Norve
Mr. Murray Wilson
Ms. Kate Greene

REGRETS: Ms. Lisa Olie
Mr. Chris Crowell
Mr. Bernard Badley
Mr. Frazer Egerton
Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Mr. Brian Phelan, Superintendent, Parks and Open Spaces
Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy
Ms. Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. in the Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, without quorum present.

6.3.1 Use of Biosolids in Point Pleasant Park - Ms. Lil MacPherson

Ms. Lil MacPherson provided a presentation on the Use of Biosolids in Point Pleasant Park; stating that she hoped that the Park would remain Biosolid free. She indicated that she was a local restaurant owner and, as such, was supportive of local food. She advised that, upon researching Biosolids, she became very concerned about this process; noting that more information was required and that a cautionary principle should be employed with regards to use. Ms. MacPherson stated that she was upset to learn that Biosolid use had been proposed for Point Pleasant Park as she believed this would harm the Park. She advised that she had represented Canada at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 and that no other countries were talking about using Biosolids; noting that the use of Biosolids would, therefore, limit Nova Scotia as people were looking for areas where crops were organic and Biosolid free. She indicated that it was her group's dream to keep Biosolids out of Nova Scotia completely; noting that small scale farms were cooling the planet and factory farming was not a sustainable method. Ms. MacPherson advised that she was pleased that Council had decided to place a temporary moratorium on Biosolid use; noting that hospital waste was going into the Biosolid sludge and it was impossible to believe that all of this waste could be treated. In closing, Ms. MacPherson stated that she hoped Point Pleasant Park would be kept clean and Biosolid free.

The Chair clarified that Council had decided on November 16, 2010 to request a consultants report on the use of Biosolids and that no use would occur during that process.

It was noted that staff were following Council's lead.

The Chair also stated that, as an Advisory Committee, they could discuss this issue and make recommendations to Council; however, this was an HRM wide issue which would ultimately be decided by Council.

Ms. MacPherson expressed concern that Biosolid use has caused illnesses and death and that it was not acceptable for use on food or in the woods as it could harm animals and the eco system.

Mr. Wilson entered the meeting at 4:45 p.m. and quorum was achieved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 14, 2010

Amendment:

Item 8.1 – Trent *Boswick* rather than *Bosworth*

MOVED by Mr. Norve, seconded by Mr. Read that the minutes of October 14, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

8.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership - Chair

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

8.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership – Chair

A copy of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership was submitted.

Correspondence from members of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee was submitted.

The Chair advised that he had been bitten by a dog while walking in Point Pleasant Park the week prior and when he expressed concern to the dog's owner, the owner stated that the Chair was fair game as he was walking in the off leash area. The Chair stated that the dog then ran at him once more and his owner, again, did nothing to keep his dog under control. He indicated that there have been an increasing number of issues with the observance of off leash rules in the Park, including area and time violations, owners not cleaning up after their dogs and dogs not being under control. The Chair then read pertinent excerpts from By-law A-300 and asked the Committee if they thought further actions and restrictions were required. He indicated that Mr. Trent Boswick, a dog owner and user of the Park, was in attendance to speak to these concerns.

Mr. Norve advised that he used the Park daily, and, although he liked dogs, he had been jumped on many times; usually in off leash areas. He stated that the current By-laws were sufficient; they just required enforcement. Mr. Norve expressed concern that such incidents were deterring people from using the Park.

From a dog owner's perspective, Mr. Boswick stated that signage in the Park was adequate; however, it may not be in the right locations. He suggested more prominent signage at the front of the Park that would include the By-law and perhaps brochures, which he would be happy to distribute to dog owners. He stated that people would continue to break the By-laws if they were not enforced.

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks, stated that Point Pleasant Park was part of a trial for off leash pilot parks chosen by the Off Leash Committee approximately three to four years ago. He indicated that a letter regarding these issues from the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee may get some action from the Off Leash Committee and that off leash complaints should also be logged by having affected residents call the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000. Mr. Rice indicated that Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Animal & Taxi/Limousine Services, had advised him that animal service officers would be patrolling the Park; noting that he would like to see officers there at least once a day to enforce off leash times. He indicated that staff could certainly print brochures as they had previously done with the off leash strategy guides.

Mr. Brian Phelan, Superintendent, Parks and Open Spaces, suggested that the Committee hold a media release advising that people were concerned with off leash compliance in the Park.

Mr. Rice noted that statistics on the number of animal control reports in the Park could be pulled from the 490-4000 call log.

Mr. Wilson stated that it was not possible for owners to keep their dogs under control when they were off leash and, therefore, he did not agree with the premise.

Mr. Awalt stated that it was a matter of having well trained dogs and responsible ownership. He indicated that a dog should not be in the off leash area if it would not come when called.

Mr. Boswick agreed with many of the comments; noting that many people in the Park could not control their dogs by making them come when called which was not responsible pet ownership. He stated that hundred dollar fines would change how dogs were trained; noting that enforcement was key and that it would be more difficult to eliminate dogs from the Park completely.

Ms. Greene noted that this issue involved managing expectations on all sides.

Several Committee members suggested that the amount of off leash areas in the Park could be investigated.

Ms. Greene noted that another difficulty involved differing opinions of what 'under control' means.

In closing the discussion, the Chair noted the following suggestions to staff to improve dog enforcement issues in the Park:

- More active By-law enforcement
- Part of that enforcement could be handing out leaflets regarding the regulations/By-laws

- Improved signage at Park entrances to explain the By-laws
- Speak to the Off Leash Committee regarding the present limits (areas and time) and if they're working correctly
- Ask the Off Leash Committee their opinion on the possibility of seeking to define "expected standards" and the definition of "under control"
- Media contact via a bilateral approach between the Committee and Mr. Boswick
- The possibility of having off leash information mailed out with annual dog registration tags

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Staff Updates

4.1.1 New Artist in Residence Program at Stone Lodge

Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Public Art Facilitator, introduced Ms. Aimee Brown, the new artist in residence at Stone Lodge, to the Committee. He stated that this was a performance based residency program with the intent to animate the Park in different ways over the next several months. He indicated that Park staff, in particular, would be a resource for Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown stated that she works in the archives at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD). She indicated that she conducts dry, academic research which she then transmutes through her studio process by making sculptures and drawings and animating them through performance. She advised that over the past summer she had the opportunity, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts, to complete a survival training module; noting that she liked Point Pleasant Park's history of survival from Hurricane Juan to events on the military batteries. Ms. Brown stated that all the survival training modules were based on willfully repetitive labour and she was interested in transferring some of those exercises on site with both pre planned and unplanned performances which would incorporate Park users. She indicated that she was working with a GPS professional and noted that performances would be half academic and half theatrical. In closing, Ms. Brown welcomed feedback on performances, events and participation.

It was requested that an information link be put on the Point Pleasant Park webpage.

Ms. Brown clarified that her pieces would be performance art and a curiosity; noting that she would not do anything that would be threatening or would create a boundary towards Park users. She stated that she was interested in getting people who do not normally use to the Park to visit.

Mr. MacLellan advised that events such as this do bring new users to the Park.

The Chair thanked Ms. Brown and Mr. MacLellan for their presentation.

4.1.2 Construction

Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy, and Ms. Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect, provided the following updates regarding construction in the Park:

- The tender process for dry wall has been closed and is now going through the approval process for the recommended contractor. Construction may begin on Pine Road at the beginning of December
- The wall should be approximately 100 metres long and that section of Pine Road will be regraded
- The three large trees at the edge of the wall will be assessed by staff to investigate if they are stable enough to remain
- The construction phase will cause the road to be closed for safety purposes and contractor access
- One Victorian lamp standard is being refurbished and staff require to know the overall cost of the five lamp standards to be placed at the edge of the road near the Lodge
- There are five components to the installation; power washing, welding, painting, rewiring and re pouring bases. The project will be finished by the end of January 2010
- The Tower Road lights are expected to be installed after January 14, 2010
- Original building foundations were unearthed during the landscape work at Fort Ogilvie and Cambridge Battery. Staff are working with an archeologist to survey and record the foundations
- Concrete patching and painting is occurring at Fort Ogilvie
- Parks Canada has taken one gun from Fort Ogilvie and will be giving staff six in its place
- Where the Mark VII cannon was, staff will be putting a Rifled Muzzle Loading (RML) cannon from York Redoubt
- An additional RML cannon will be placed at the Cambridge Battery
- A granite racer was found near the Cambridge Battery
- Two smaller, smooth bore cannons will be placed at the North West Arm Battery
- Concrete and masonry work will continue throughout the winter and signage has been installed
- For the parking lot and Port, the house has been rearranged to be less obtrusive and construction will take place for 18 months. Crew will have access to the gate via the Port Authority and will be liable if anything should happen
- A construction trailer has moved in at Martello Tower as approved by Parks Canada

At the request of Mr. Awalt, Mr. Vodicka advised that he would follow up with Mr. Bigelow regarding monies for the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre that were being put aside for the Park.

Mr. Vodicka circulated a copy of the draft proposed narratives as per his commitment at the October meeting; noting that he had included proposed changes as the Mi'Kmaq Elders had not approved the original wording.

Mr. Wilson left the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Quorum was lost.

Mr. Vodicka and the Committee reviewed the highlighted changes.

Mr. Vodicka advised that the narrative would be presented via an audio tour, signage, a website and a professionally produced pamphlet.

Mr. Awalt indicated that he would bring the highlighted changes before the Elders and would ensure that Mr. Vodicka receives their previously proposed changes.

Mr. Vodicka provided an update on the interpretive fish tanks in the Park; noting that Ms. Nicole May, Landscape Architect, intended to finish the project soon and wished to unveil all the tanks at once.

The Chair requested an update on the Shilling Ceremony; particularly if funding would be lost if not used prior to the end of the fiscal year.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Use of Biosolids in Point Pleasant Park - Ms. Lil MacPherson

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

7. REPORTS

7.1 Committee Members

7.1.1 Committee Update - Chair

The Legislative Assistant indicated that the only change the new Standing Committee Structure would have on the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee would be that appointments to the Committee would now be made by Peninsula Community Council rather than the Membership Selection Committee.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership - Chair

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 4.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant