

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

## POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 9, 2011

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair  
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair  
Ms. Lisa Olie  
Ms. Nancy Vanstone  
Mr. Richard Tilley  
Ms. Katrina Leckovic  
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski  
Mr. Robert Apold  
Ms. Allison Presse

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck  
Mr. Dale Smith

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2011.....	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / STAFF UPDATES.....	3
	5.1 Business Arising .....	3
	5.1.1 2011 Work Plan .....	4
	5.2 Staff Updates .....	5
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None.....	5
	6.1 Volunteers in the Park.....	5
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS .....	6
	7.1 Correspondence .....	6
	7.1.1 Correspondence dated May 24, 2011 from Mr. Peter McCurdy.....	5
	7.2 Petitions – None .....	6
	7.3 Presentations - None .....	6
8.	REPORTS .....	6
	8.1 Committee Members.....	6
	8.1.1 Bicycle Use Safety .....	6
	8.1.2 Emergency Notification – Evacuation Plan .....	7
9.	ADDED ITEMS - NONE .....	7
10.	NEXT MEETING DATE .....	7
11.	ADJOURNMENT .....	7

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Awalt, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:37pm in the Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair.

**MOVED By Mr. Awalt, seconded by Ms. Olie, that Mr. Morum be appointed Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee for the term of June 2011 until June 2012. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Vanstone requested clarification on the position of Chair and Mr. Morum's time and experience as Chair. Mr. Morum gave a brief introduction of himself as Chair and Mr. Tilley pointed out that Mr. Morum currently had many projects in development.

Mr. Morum, as the new Chair, called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

**MOVED By Ms. Olie, seconded by Ms. Piorkowski, that Mr. Awalt be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee for the term of June 2011 until June 2012. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Apold entered the meeting at 4:40pm.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12, 2011**

**MOVED by Ms. Vanstone, seconded by Mr. Tilley that the minutes of May 12, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Discussion followed. Mr. Tilley noted that, at the last meeting, Trent Boswick had offered to promote responsible dog ownership by contacting his website members.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / STAFF UPDATES**

**5.1 Business Arising**

Ms. Olie requested that everyone introduce themselves as there are many new members.

Committee members are invited to attend the launch event of the Public Performance Series at 7pm June 24, Eyelevel Gallery, 2063 Gottingen Street, Halifax.

### **5.1.1 2011 Work Plan**

Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy, provided a verbal update on the Work Plan and handed members an updated document on capital projects. Mr. Vodicka spoke to the funding strategy of the federal infrastructure funding.

Discussion on specific projects followed:

- Mr. Tilley asked about the fencing around the Cambridge Battery and if it is still under construction or open to the public.
- Ms. Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect, explained that the construction has finished, but the freshly laid sod is being protected from foot traffic.
- Mr. Tilley asked if the kiosks will be filled this summer.
- Mr. Vodicka confirmed that they will be finished. The first one will be by Black Rock Beach. He told members that once the kiosks are complete, the marketing team will turn their attention to the Mp3 narratives.
- Ms. Roberts provided an update on the two different, but flexible, lower parking lot options, using maps with design plans. She explained that within 10 years, the plan is to have a new visitor centre in the Black Rock area. The new design of the lower parking lot will better accommodate active transportation, with bus stops and more bicycle parking.
- Ms. Vanstone asked about the number of planned parking spaces.
- Ms. Roberts said there are about 340. She said the comprehensive plan suggests reducing that number by 100.
- Mr. Tilley requested that tactics to reduce street parking are essential for the neighbourhood because residents have difficulty driving out of the area on Sundays due to congestion.
- Mr. Vodicka noted that staff could take forward specific questions regarding the Urban Greenway Plan and the potential reduction of parking.
- Ms. Roberts asked if the parking issue is due to full parking lots. Mr. Tilley responded, yes, the street parking is due to lots being full, reducing the road to one lane, because cars are parked on both sides of the road.
- Ms. Olie asked if both options offer the same amount of parking spaces. Ms. Roberts said she would do a count to find out.
- Mr. Morum brought up his concern of the lower parking lot being used as a drag strip. Ms. Roberts said that by breaking up the entry area, speeders would be discouraged.
- Mr. Apold asked if there was an option of expanding the parking lot. Ms. Roberts said no, that was not being considered.
- Mr. Tilley asked if the port area could provide overflow Sunday parking for park visitors. Mr. Vodicka said he and Ms. Roberts would bring forward parking options in their upcoming discussions with the Port Authority.

## **5.2 Staff Updates**

Staff provided a verbal update on activities. The following comments were captured:

- Beaches are reopening July 1, 2011 and will be fully staffed.
- Shakespeare by the Sea is moving back to the Cambridge Battery and will start performances on July 1, 2011.
- The winning vendor of the canteen tender is BeaverTails. They will operate out of the Park and at Dingle Tower in Purcell's Cove.
- Mr. Morum requested that dog by-law enforcement remain on the agenda for future meetings as it is an issue that requires ongoing discussion.
- Mr. Tilley said that having the picnic areas off-leash does not seem to work because some dog owners do not follow the rules.
- Mr. Morum asked if there is a way to incorporate bike rules on the dog rule cards, and suggested that he would speak with the Clerk's Office about updating the card hand-outs.
- Mr. Phelan said that there are fewer complaints at this Park than others, but he encourages everyone to call the 490-4000 HRM Call Centre to register their complaints.
- Ms. Vanstone suggested an information blitz would help raise the profile of the rules .

### **7.1.1 Correspondence dated May 24, 2011 from Mr. Peter McCurdy**

Correspondence dated May 24, 2011 from Mr. Peter McCurdy was before the Committee.

Staff were not aware of the letter from Mr. McCurdy.

Mr. Morum suggested that a temporary sandwich board with signage encouraging people to respect the wetland would suffice. He said he would call him to discuss the review of dogs in the park that was currently underway.

Comments on the following were recorded:

- Mr. Tilley raised the coyote issue with staff. Mr. Phelan provided an update.
- Mr. Tilley asked if the Park could borrow some Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sign boards to raise awareness.
- Ms. Vanstone asked about access to the comprehensive plan. Mr. Vodicka apologized as they were not ready from the printer in time.
- Mr. Morum gave an update on the Shilling Ceremony. Staff are waiting for confirmation from the Lieutenant Governor's office before setting the date. It will not happen before the next meeting.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

### **6.1 Volunteers in the Park**

Mr. Morum provided a verbal update on the Volunteers in the Park project. The challenge is recruiting volunteers. The idea is to launch the Volunteers at the Shilling Ceremony.

Mr. Morum asked for Committee volunteers to step forward and help coordinate the Volunteers in the Park project.

Ms. Olie said that the PR generated through Mr. Boswick's group would help kick off the recruitment process.

Mr. Tilley volunteered to help with the sub-committee coordination.

Mr. Apold left the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Morum asked members to send him an email to volunteer.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

#### **7.1.1 Correspondence dated May 24, 2011 from Mr. Peter McCurdy**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 5.

### **7.2 Petitions – None**

### **7.3 Presentations - None**

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Committee Members**

#### **8.1.1 Bicycle Use Safety**

- Mr. Tilley raised the issue of bikes speeding and not following the rules in the park.
- Mr. Morum asked if staff could check the regulations on bike speed and report back.
- Mr. Vodicka noted that the active transportation trails in the urban areas are posted at a 20kms speed limit.
- Mr. Phelan will send communications to park patrol regarding safe bike use in the park.

### **8.1.2 Emergency Notification – Evacuation Plan**

The following comments were noted in discussion of an evacuation plan:

- Mr. Tilley raised the issue of the need for a fire plan for residents and visitors. He asked how people would be notified of a fire, and if there are working fire hydrants.
- Mr. Rice said that the hydrants do work but the pressure is low.
- Mr. Tilley asked for a secure route out for residents while fire trucks are trying to get into the area and that a notification system be put in place.
- Ms. Olie said she did not see this as a Park issue, rather as an issue for HRM.
- Mr. Vodicka noted that if a fire did start in the Park it is an EMO matter.
- Mr. Morum said he agreed with Ms. Olie and asked if there is an emergency plan in place for the Park.
- Mr. Rice said that there is a Point Pleasant Park evacuation emergency plan. In the future, there will be more means to call 911 in the Park. Mr. Rice will send out the plan for members to review.

### **9. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

### **10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday July 14, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.

Pamela Lovelace  
Legislative Support