

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

December 8, 2011

PRESENT:

Mr. Duncan Morum (Chair)
Mr. Don Awalt (Vice Chair)
Mr. Richard Tilley
Ms. Lisa Olie
Mr. Angus MacLennan
Ms. Katrina Leckovic
Ms. Nancy Vanstone
Ms. Teresa Piorkowski

REGRETS:

Mr. Robert Apold
Councillor Sue Uteck

STAFF:

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 13 and November 20, 2011

MOVED by Mr. Tilley, seconded by Ms. Vanstone , that the minutes of October 13, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ms. Vanstone, seconded by Ms. Olie, that the meeting notes of November 20, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee approved the order of business as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / STAFF UPDATES

4.1.1 Memorial for the Mi'kmaq Warrior

Mr. Tilley referred to the October 13, 2011 minutes and the Chair's intent to circulate the Mi'kmaq Heritage Area Interpretive Plan to Committee members. The Chair stated that he would circulate the Plan prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Awalt informed the Committee that Ms. Glode-Desrocher, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre, has taken the matter before the Council of Chiefs and the item is now on their agenda. Mr. Awalt added that Mi'kmaw community members who attended the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee's meeting on October 13, 2011 were pleased with the support they received.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Tilley thanked staff for installing a coyote warning sign at the Chain Rock entrance to the Park. Mr. Rice noted that he has not received any reports of coyote sightings. Mr. Rice informed the Committee that two cultural kiosks were completed and the Mi'kmaq kiosk was scheduled to be completed within the week. Mr. Rice also noted that a few trees had come down during the day's windstorm but the paths were being cleared with a tree crew working that night.

The Chair raised the question of the Friends of Point Pleasant Park requesting funds from the Port Authority for landscaping along the port. Mr. Phelan responded that he was not aware of this and that Mr. Iain Taylor, of the Friends, should contact Mr. Peter Bigelow (liaison between the Port and the Park) about any funding so that there is not duplication. Mr. Phelan added that an urban gardening group on Wellington Road was very interested in a garden project in the Park and he was preparing a VIP (Volunteers in the Park) presentation for the group. He also stated that landscaping near the lower parking lot is on hold until the ongoing work by the Port Authority is completed.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

No deferred business.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee re: Weekend Bicycle Use in Point Pleasant Park

Correspondence dated November 17, 2011 from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee was before the Committee.

Committee members discussed the letter received from Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). Members stated a number of concerns, focussing primarily on safety, the lack of posted speed limits for cyclists and the congestion in the Park on weekends. It was noted that promoting the quiet enjoyment of nature is part of the Park's mandate rather than opportunities to learn to cycle. Staff stated that there is no intention to change the weekend regulation at this time, that Point Pleasant Park is the busiest park in HRM, especially the shoreline paths, and is not designed in a way that cyclists and pedestrians can easily keep to separate sections.

Members also had questions as to whether any data existed on the percentage of cruise ship visitors who came to the Park and stated that they would like more information from ATAC on the larger picture including plans for cycling routes from the city to trails. Members agreed that it would be helpful for ATAC and the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee to send representatives to each others' meetings to gain more information.

The Committee agreed that the Chair and Mr. Tilley would draft a response to ATAC's letter and circulate the draft to members for comment.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE -- January 12, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair noted in closing that he would contact Councillor Uteck regarding choosing a Committee meeting date to provide information on the Shilling Ceremony. He also urged members to attend the January meeting as Mr. John Charles, Infrastructure & Planning, would be present to discuss the off-lease issue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant