

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 12, 2012

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Mr. Richard Tilley
Ms. Lisa Olie
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
Mr. Robert Apold
Ms. Nancy Vanstone
Mr. Angus MacLennan

REGRETS: Ms. Katrina Leckovic

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces
Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy
Mr. John Charles, Infrastructure & Planning
Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Animal Services
Ms. Siobhan Wiggans, Arts Programmer
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 8, 2011.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES.....	4
	4.1.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership -- Update.....	4
	4.2 Staff Updates.....	4
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE.....	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS.....	5
	6.1 Correspondence -- None.....	5
	6.2 Petitions -- None.....	5
	6.3 Presentations.....	3
	6.3.1 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Ms. Lisa Lipton.....	3
	6.3.2 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Mr. Mathew Reichertz.....	3
	6.3.3 NSCAD Masters Thesis Initiative re: Point Pleasant Park – Mr. Michael Peters.....	3
7.	REPORTS -- NONE.....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS -- NONE.....	5
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – February 9, 2012.....	5
10.	ADJOURNMENT.....	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 8, 2011

MOVED by Mr. Tilley, seconded by Ms. Vanstone, that the minutes of December 8, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair and Ms. Wiggins requested that the presentations as listed in 6.3 be heard as the next item on the agenda. The Committee members agreed and approved the order of business as amended.

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Ms. Lisa Lipton

Ms. Wiggins introduced Ms. Lipton, Point Pleasant Lodge artist-in-residence. Ms. Lipton gave a brief presentation on her work in progress involving drums, window ballet, sound installations and performances planned for May 2012. Mr. Phelan offered staff assistance with promotion including sandwich board notices.

6.3.2 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Mr. Mathew Reichertz

Ms. Wiggins introduced Mr. Reichertz, also working as an artist-in-residence in the Park. Mr. Reichertz described a visual arts project involving a series of paintings, each measuring four by four feet. He explained that the paintings would be undertaken between July 15 and August 30, 2012, and that he would be in the Park six hours a day during that time period, painting and interacting with visitors.

6.3.3 NSCAD Masters Thesis Initiative re: Point Pleasant Park – Mr. Michael Peters

Mr. Peters requested permission to attend and observe the Committee's meetings as part of his thesis involving the social and cultural history of the Park, the different ways people "enter" the Park and what tools they use, including social media. In response to a request from the Chair, the staff members present at the meeting introduced themselves to Mr. Peters and gave a brief description of their roles.

The Committee returned to the order of business at this time.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership - Update

Ms. MacDonald provided an overview of the By-law and the statistics generated through 490-4000 complaints from January 2011 to January 2012 for Point Pleasant Park (15 complaints), Shubenacadie Park (14) and Seaview Park (14). She also described the time frame and visibility of patrols at the parks and the ability to issue warnings, muzzle orders, summary offence tickets and fines.

Mr. Charles added information on the history of the off-leash committee, the public consultations, the overall strategy and streamlined approach to parks, and the roles of Peninsula Community Council and Regional Council. He explained that a specific initiative or adjustment for Point Pleasant Park could be considered by Peninsula Community Council, and that the process would be for the Committee to write a report outlining the issues and making recommendations.

Committee members asked a number of detailed questions about how the 490-4000 database is created and used. Several members expressed concern that the focus on a “complaint-driven” process does not provide an accurate picture as it doesn’t occur to park visitors (who may have no information on the dog or the owner) to call the 4000 number; furthermore, the violations routinely found by staff on patrol do not form part of the complaint statistics.

The Chair informed staff that Committee members are hearing from citizens that the extent of the off-leash areas in the Park and the number of unpleasant interactions between dogs and people have created an unbalanced situation. The Vice-Chair added that there was an element of cultural insensitivity regarding off-leash or uncontrolled dogs and the Mi’kmaq burial grounds.

The Committee requested information on how many tickets or warnings were issued in the last year, whether off-leash complaints were tracked as such, and what information is generated by the violations found on patrols. Ms. MacDonald stated that, in addition to the statistics available, she would provide a narrative report. The Chair thanked Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Charles for their assistance.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Vodicka provided an update on the upper and lower parking lot lighting improvements and the plans for fence-line tree planting. He noted that the Park had met federal infrastructure conditions and had been able to take maximum advantage of federal funding.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence -- None

6.2 Petitions -- None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Ms. Lisa Lipton

This item was dealt with above, see page 3.

6.3.2 Point Pleasant Lodge Programming Update – Mr. Mathew Reichertz

This item was dealt with above, see page 3.

6.3.3 NSCAD Masters Thesis Initiative re: Point Pleasant Park – Mr. Michael Peters

This item was dealt with above, see page 3.

7. REPORTS -- NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS -- NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – February 9, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Olie noted in closing that the Committee had received a number of visitors in recent meetings and the venue may no longer be appropriate or comfortable for larger groups. She requested that this matter be placed on the February agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant