

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 9, 2012

PRESENT: Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Mr. Richard Tilley
Ms. Lisa Olie
Ms. Katrina Leckovic
Mr. Angus MacLennan
Mr. Robert Apold
Ms. Nancy Vanstone

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of 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 Chair previously advised the Committee that he would be delayed. The Vice-Chair assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12, 2012

Committee members requested that in paragraph three of 4.1.1 the phrase “citizen-driven” be changed to read “complaint-driven”.

MOVED by Mr. Tilley, seconded by Ms. Olie that the minutes of January 12, 2012 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Members requested that the matter of a possible change in meeting venue be added as item 8.1. Mr. Tilley requested that the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee’s written response to the Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee be added as item 8.2.

MOVED by Ms. Olie, seconded by Ms. Vanstone that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Business Arising

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

A Patrol Summary from January 9, 2011 to January 9, 2012 from Animal Services was before the Committee.

Ms. Vanstone commented that the patrol summary prepared by staff did provide additional information but noted that similar charts covering the last few years would indicate whether the situation was getting worse. Concern was expressed that, if HRM is not moving forward with new off-leash areas, and the demand was growing, it may place too much pressure on the five existing parks that have such areas.

Ms. Vanstone added that exit surveys of Park users would generate both positive and negative feedback on dogs, bicycles and other issues. Committee members discussed the strategy of on-line surveys or other ways to reach citizens who no longer visit the Park. Members agreed to send suggestions for survey questions to Mr. Tilley who will

compile a list for a future meeting. Mr. Phelan and Mr. Rice agreed to look into the matter of how staff might assist with such a survey.

Mr. Phelan informed the Committee that he contacted the 490-4000 call centre and had an update on the recent off-leash dog incident described in an email sent to the Committee by the Chair. The Committee agreed to defer discussion of this matter until Mr. Morum could be present.

In concluding the discussion, Ms. Vanstone referred to the HRM document “Off-Leash Parks Strategy” dated June 26, 2007, item 2.5, and the principle of environmental and cultural sensitivity. She noted that this principle was relevant to any discussion of the Mi’kmaq Warrior Memorial and off-leash areas near the Mi’kmaq burial site.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Rice provided a brief update, stating that due to a staff illness, work on the cultural kiosks was delayed. He added that the short light standards were now installed and mentioned that a film crew from Belgium had recently been in the Park as part of a documentary on the Titanic.

Mr. Phelan stated that staff have noted an increase in Animal Services patrols. In response to suggestions from members, he entered into a discussion of the possibility of off-leash rules being printed on scoop bags, rules posted at bag dispensers, park volunteers involved in surveys or in a “flag-the-poop” awareness event. He agreed to contact Mr. Charles about flags and Ms. Vanstone agreed to contact Trent Boswick, a Park volunteer about these Committee suggestions.

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 Change of Meeting Venue

Ms. Olie and Mr. Tilley noted that citizens have expressed an interest to them in attending Committee meetings and the current venue did not accommodate visitors comfortably. Ms. Olie raised the question of whether the Shakespeare by the Sea

building could be made available occasionally. Mr. Tilley suggested an advertised public meeting once a year to get feedback, promote upcoming events and encourage Park volunteers. In terms of the current venue, Mr. Rice and Mr. Phelan agreed to obtain additional chairs and expand the table surface in time for the March meeting.

8.2 Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee Response to ATAC -- Deferred

The Committee agreed to defer this item until Mr. Morum could be present.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 8, 2012

Mr. Apold and Ms. Vanstone informed the Committee that they would not be able to attend the March meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant