

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 12, 2012

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair  
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair  
Mr. Richard Tilley  
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski  
Ms. Nancy Vanstone

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck  
Ms. Lisa Olie  
Mr. Angus MacLennan  
Ms. Katrina Leckovic  
Mr. Geoff O'Connor  
Mr. Robert Apold

STAFF: Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces  
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 8, 2012**

**MOVED by Mr. Tilley, seconded by Ms. Piorkowski that the minutes of March 8, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Mr. Tilley requested that the Shilling Ceremony and the Mi'kmaq Warrior sculpture be added items.

The Chair requested that the issue of snares and an update on Volunteers in the Park be added items.

The Committee agreed and approved the additions and the order of business as amended.

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

**4.1 Business Arising**

**4.1.1 Discussion with the Active Transportation Advisory Committee re: Bicycles in the Park**

The Chair welcomed Ms. Sarah Craig, owner of I Heart Bikes. The Chair also welcomed Councillor Jennifer Watts and Councillor David Hendsbee, members of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). Ms. Craig provided a brief presentation on the negative feedback she has received from customers about the prohibition of cycling in Point Pleasant Park on weekends. She noted that cycling was formerly prohibited on the Halifax Waterfront but was allowed on a trial basis last summer; there were no complaints and cycling will continue to be permitted. She stated that she would be happy to receive feedback from PPPAC members on how Park cycling regulations are outlined in her company's brochure.

PPPAC members and the visitors then entered into a discussion on the following points:

- inquiries received by ATAC regarding sites for families to teach safe cycling on weekends and the possibility of a trial project in one area of the Park
- conflicts in the Park between cyclists and other Park users due to cyclists speeding or using unauthorized trails

- the options for including a section of the Park in the TransCanada Trail and future harbour trail networks
- multiuse trail etiquette and promoting responsible cycling culture
- the high visitor density in the Park on weekends compared to other HRM parks
- the Comprehensive Plan for the Park and the mandate to restore the forest
- how best to direct and educate cyclists while keeping within the Park policy to minimize signage

Committee members expressed an interest in the possibility of restricting cyclists to one corridor in the Park with the trade-off being that the corridor would be available all week and the bike trail would be distinguished in a visually obvious manner. Councillor Watts agreed to arrange for a trails association speaker experienced in many of the above issues to contact the PPPAC Chair in order to attend a future PPPAC meeting.

#### **4.1.2 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership**

The Chair welcomed Mr. Trent Boswick, Park Volunteer. Mr. Boswick provided an information sheet on his website [dogs4ppp.com](http://dogs4ppp.com). He stated that this site and blog promotes responsible dog ownership. He offered to coordinate volunteers to assist with Park clean-up and also with handing out information on Park regulations to visitors coming into the Park with dogs. Mr. Brian Phelan confirmed that he would work with the volunteers and advertise any initiatives on the Park website. In response to a request from Mr. Tilley, Mr. Boswick agreed to provide his feedback on the Committee's draft survey questions.

The Committee discussed the timing of a flag-the-poop awareness activity. Mr. Phelan noted that staff could flag in strategic areas. Mr. Boswick stated that he could identify key areas to flag and would send this information to Mr. Phelan.

Mr. Boswick participated in a Committee discussion about the improvement needed regarding off-lease dogs near the picnic area and the area that is culturally sensitive to the Mi'kmaq community. He noted that the issue for dog owners is having some access to the shoreline for dogs that swim.

#### **4.1.3 Park User Survey**

The Committee entered into a discussion on paper and online options for both a short-form and long-form survey. Members also discussed survey takers with clickers or clipboards and checklists doing a visual survey of the type of Park user and time of day of use. Mr. Phelan offered to provide funding for students to do a one-day clicker or clipboard survey. Ms. Piorkowski stated that students in planning courses could incorporate this kind of survey into a class assignment. She agreed to explore this possibility further and send the information to the Chair.

Members agreed to send Mr. Tilley any additional feedback within the next few days, especially on the short-form questions. Mr. Tilley stated that he would finalize an updated draft survey by the end of the following week.

#### **4.2 Staff Updates**

Mr. Phelan conveyed a response from Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Animal Control, confirming that 490-4000 responders do work with a script and do code calls. He added that there may have been a misunderstanding at the Call Centre as to whether calls made by Committee members were an Animal Control issue or a police matter.

Mr. Phelan also conveyed information from Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy, regarding Park lighting and approval of capital funding. Mr. Phelan was not able to provide an update specifically on the Visitor Centre. The Chair requested that his inquiry, as noted in the March 8, 2012 PPPAC minutes, about the status of the Centre, large project funding, and the Park budget overview, be repeated in the April Committee minutes. The Chair also requested a list of the upcoming projects approved for the Park. Mr. Phelan stated that he would convey the requests to Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning.

#### **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**

Mr. Tilley and Mr. Awalt requested that the Shilling Ceremony and the Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture be standing items on future meeting agendas.

##### **8.1 The Shilling Ceremony**

The Chair noted that he has made two additional attempts to obtain an update on this matter from Councillor Sue Uteck but has not received a response.

## **8.2 Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture**

Mr. Awalt informed the Committee that the matter is proceeding through the Council of Chiefs, that one Mi'kmaq Cultural Studies group has expressed concern about which body would administer the funding and this matter is being clarified.

## **8.3 Snares in the Park**

Mr. Phelan informed the Committee that staff searched for snares in the Park but have not found any.

## **8.4 Volunteers in the Park Program**

The Chair noted that the draft press release aimed at increasing the number of participants in the VIP Program will be ready by the end of April, and that Mr. Phelan would be listed on the release as the contact person.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 10, 2012**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort  
Legislative Assistant