

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 10, 2012

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

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
Mr. Geoff O'Connor

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2012

Committee members requested that the final paragraph of item 4.1.2 be amended to read as follows: “Mr. Boswick participated in a Committee discussion about the improvement needed regarding off-leash 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.”

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

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

Additions:

- 8.1 I Heart Bikes
- 8.2 Memorials in the Park

The Chair suggested that item 6.3.1 be moved to follow item 3.

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

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Segway Nova Scotia – Mr. Max Rastelli, Owner, Segway Nova Scotia

Mr. Max Rastelli and Ms. Romi Foley circulated an information handout to the Committee members and provided a presentation on their request to conduct cultural and historical tours in Point Pleasant Park, using Segways. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Rastelli and Ms. Foley clarified the following:

- Segway safety training and website links (in the handout) to safety studies
- The request was for a pilot project during weekdays with the best route and time of day to be coordinated with Park staff
- Proposed tours would be small groups of eight with the tour guided and supervised
- The tour leader can pre-program and control the speed of the Segways, keeping them as low as ten kilometers an hour
- Segways are currently not classified under the Nova Scotia *Motor Vehicle Act*; discussions are underway with provincial and HRM staff on a pilot project

- Segway tours currently exist in Edmonton, Prince Edward Island, the United States and Europe
- How the tours might fit within the Park's Comprehensive Plan as a new amenity
- The best location for ticket sales and the 30-minutes pre-tour training session
- How Segways are being used in some jurisdictions by police or first-responders and the offer of a Segway to Park staff to be used in a pilot project for patrols or for user surveys
- Segways have a sound device to warn walkers of their approach

Committee members entered into a discussion, expressing interest and some support for the proposal as a pilot project and a new amenity, particularly for visitors with mobility issues. Members emphasized that the existing parking lots were not suitable for ticket sales or pre-tour training due to space constraints and because it could contribute to the perception of commercialization. Concern was also expressed about a communication plan to provide adequate notice of the pilot project to current Park users.

The Chair clarified the advisory role of the Committee and thanked Mr. Rastelli and Ms. Foley for their presentation. Ms. Foley stated she would send the Chair a summary of the discussion and points of concern.

The Committee then returned to the regular order of business.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Business Arising

4.1.1 Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture

Mr. Awalt informed the Committee that there was significant support for the sculpture and that the matter was on the May 28, 2012 agenda of the KMK (Mi'kmaq Treaty Initiatives) for a formal resolution in favour of the project. He requested four copies of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan to distribute to KMK representatives prior to the May 28, 2012 meeting.

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

Mr. Trent Boswick, attending the meeting as a visitor and Park volunteer, provided an update to the Committee on a Park clean-up as an awareness activity. He noted that sponsors for the event and a number of volunteers had expressed interest and he was hoping to confirm a date in June 2012. Committee members suggested that this event could be part of the larger Clean Nova Scotia initiative. Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks, agreed to put the event on the Park website as soon as Mr. Boswick confirmed the date.

The Committee agreed that the best timing for a “flag-the-poop” event is early spring and requested that this item be placed on the February 2013 meeting agenda.

4.1.3 Park User Survey

Committee members reviewed the draft version of the short-form survey prepared and circulated by Mr. Tilley. Several members provided specific suggestions and expressed a preference for general and open survey questions. Mr. Tilley agreed to incorporate the feedback provided, send out the revised drafts of the short and long-form surveys by May 12, 2012 with a request for final comments back to him by May 20, 2012. He stated he would then send the final draft of both surveys to Mr. Rice, who agreed to forward the surveys to Ms. Deanna Wilmshurst, HRM Information Officer, for final preparation and posting to the HRM website.

4.1.4 Shilling Ceremony

The Chair updated the Committee on information he received from Councillor Sue Uteck. He noted that Councillor Uteck recommended August 23 or 24, 2012 for the ceremony. He added that she had confirmed that arrangements were underway for catering, attendance by representatives and participation by the Bengal Lancers, and that she would notify the Chair as other details became available.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that he is waiting for a response from staff on the budget and plans for capital improvements in the Park. He added that summer staffing will now provide daily coverage for garbage removal, grass cutting and similar tasks.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Wheelchair Accessibility in the Park – Ms. Sylvia Wambolt, April 6, 2012

Correspondence dated April 6, 2012 from Ms. Sylvia Wambolt was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed Ms. Wambolt’s e-mail and the Chair noted that he would call 490-4000 and make a request regarding parking signage improvements that would assist wheelchair users exiting the Park. He requested that the Legislative Assistant forward Ms. Wambolt’s contact information to him so that he could inform Ms. Wambolt of the Committee’s action.

6.1.2 Point Pleasant Park & Dog Privileges – Mr. Paul Lunney, April 15, 2012

Correspondence dated April 15, 2012 from Mr. Paul Lunney was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed Mr. Lunney's e-mail and decided to forward the correspondence to the HRM Off-Leash Committee. The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant forward Mr. Lunney's contact information to him so that he could inform Mr. Lunney of the Committee's action.

6.2 Petitions -- None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Segway Nova Scotia – Mr. Max Rastelli, Owner, Segway Nova Scotia

This item was dealt with previously, see page 3.

7. REPORTS -- NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 I Heart Bikes

The Chair suggested that members who wished to comment on the information contained in Ms. Sarah Craig's (owner of I Heart Bikes) pamphlet regarding weekend cycling in the Park and bike parking racks contact Ms. Craig directly.

8.2 Memorials in the Park

Mr. Tilley informed the Committee that he had made a request to naval officials that organizers of the Battle of the Atlantic memorial clear the wreaths after two weeks and that, in the past, he has requested that they cordon off sections of heather during memorials to reduce damage to the plants.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 14, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant