

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

October 11, 2012

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

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck
 Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
 Ms. Katrina Leckovic
 Mr. Geoff O'Connor
 Mr. Richard Tilley

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 called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2012

MOVED by Ms. Vanstone, seconded by Ms. Olie that the minutes of September 13, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to approve the order of business as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Business Arising

**4.1.1 Park User Survey Update
(<http://fluidsurveys.com/s/PointPleasantParkUserSurvey/>)**

Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces and Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks provided an overview of the survey results. Mr. Phelan stated that 1,583 park users responded to the survey and noted that staff are very pleased with both the response rate and the high degree of satisfaction among Park users. He summarized responses to questions involving seasonal use, most enjoyed activities, awareness of Park rules, safety, age of visitors and how they reached the Park, and attendance at or awareness of arts events. He noted that only eight per cent of respondents reported experiencing a problem in the Park; however, a high percentage of those respondents (80%) stated the problem had not been resolved to their satisfaction. He also noted that while 60 per cent of respondents agreed with current rules governing cyclists, 40% felt the rules should be modified.

As the full survey report, including all respondent comments, is approximately 500 pages, the Chair suggested that Committee members review the report in sections and the Committee can deepen its discussion at subsequent meetings. Mr. Phelan agreed to forward the entire report to the Legislative Assistant to be circulated to Committee members.

4.1.2 Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture

Mr. Awalt noted that there was no new information. The Chair requested that this item return to the agenda at the November PPPAC meeting.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that the Park was now on the winter staffing schedule and there would be no staff in the Park on weekends. He advised the Committee that Councillor Uteck had called him with information that an outbreak of raccoon distemper was occurring in major parks. Mr. Rice added that the condition is not contagious to humans but raccoons with distemper may approach dogs and transfer it. He noted that the provincial Department of Natural Resources is handling the issue and should be contacted with any concerns. He stated that Park staff would issue a Public Service Announcement on this matter.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Follow up on validity of signs and enforcement

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that he has requested the police report on the incident in the Park involving signage and cycling. He added that he has spoken to the Police Superintendent and has exchanged messages with the police officer involved but, due to scheduling, has not yet spoken to the officer directly to obtain further clarification. The Chair requested that this item return to the PPPAC agenda until the issue of the clarity and enforcement of Park signage is resolved.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Another Suggestion x invasive plant, PPP, Mr. David Patriquin

An e-mail from Mr. Patriquin, dated September 15, 2012, was before the Committee.

Mr. Rice responded that Park staff monitor patches of Japanese knotweed and have attempted a three-year tarp coverage project that did not eradicate the plant. He added that staff were looking into other strategies and, in the meantime, they keep the weed cut back. Committee members noted that continual manual weeding might be effective; also, experiments are underway elsewhere with a backpack steam device. The Chair requested that Park staff respond to Mr. Patriquin's correspondence. Mr. Phelan stated that he would respond on behalf of the staff.

6.1.2 Inuksuks at Point Pleasant Park, Ms. Anne West

An e-mail from Ms. West, dated September 18, 2012, was before the Committee.

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that he had responded to Ms. West's correspondence. He clarified that Park staff do not interfere with inuksuks built on the beach. He added that Ms. West's suggestion of encouraging the building of inuksuks as a cultural event

will be forwarded to city arts staff. The Chair noted that Ms. West was a former PPPAC member and he would also send her a note in response.

6.2 Petitions -- None

6.3 Presentations -- None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Segways – Report from Mr. Rastelli

The Chair informed the Committee that he is expecting this report but has not received it from Mr. Rastelli. He requested that this item return to the November agenda.

8. ADDED ITEMS -- NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 8, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee agreed to do a walk through the Park to examine signage and the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant