



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 3, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Ms. Ann Boswick
Ms. Paula Minnikin
Mr. Timothy Boudreau
Councillor Waye Mason
Ms. Dawn Vickers

REGRETS: Ms. Karen Ross
Mr. Malcolm Norton
Ms. Anastasia Smallwood
Ms. Helen Sinclair, Vice Chair

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Ms. Cailin MacDonald, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/pppac/160303pppac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m., and adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 7, 2016

MOVED by Ms. Boswick, seconded by Ms. Vickers

THAT the minutes of January 7, 2016 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Ms. Boswick commented that she would like to discuss the “Save Young Avenue” campaign. Mr. Rice commented that he would like to share an update on Park rules.

The following was added to the Committee’s agenda:

- 10.1 Save Young Avenue discussion
- 10.2 Point Pleasant Park rules update

MOVED by Ms. Boswick, seconded by Mr. Boudreau

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – NONE

7.2 Petitions – NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update from Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks West

Mr. Rice provided an update on park activities and winter operations. He commented that the weather has been cooperating and fewer resources have been utilized. He noted that staff has been working on other projects including road, ditch and tree work given the milder weather.

Mr. Rice shared a brief update on the plan for capital projects. He noted that the main project being looked at is a redesign of the parking lot and that some funds have been budgeted for initial consultations. He shared that they hope to have a composite design by this time next year.

Mr. Morum asked whether a visitor centre would be included as part of the parking lot redesign. Mr. Rice responded that the interim plan in lieu of a visitor centre is the allowing food trucks to operate in the parking lot on a three year contract as there has not been external interest in reviving the canteen. He continued by sharing that a tender was issued to service the park. The Committee continued to discuss the opportunities and implications with food trucks. Ms. Boswick asked whether the Committee would be able to review the original tender or public information available on the tender. Staff agreed to look into publicly available tender documents to share with the Committee.

Ms. Boswick commented on the many opportunities available to an external group to raise funds for the park. Mr. Mason commented that whether the Committee should dissolve to form an independent society has been proposed before as this would give the group the ability to raise funds and further autonomy similar to the Friends of the Public Gardens Society.

Mr. Rice provided an update on the park's pilot patrol project. He explained that a pilot project was introduced last year which looked at utilizing existing resources including park staff, law enforcement and animal control to help monitor the park. Mr. Rice shared that this year he's working with corporate communications to develop a communications plan to help educate the public about the new patrol project. He continued by sharing that communications will be launched 1-2 weeks prior to an event in the park on the May long-weekend to help kick-off the season.

Ms. Minnikin commented that the May long-weekend is a disruptive weekend for the park given the Bluenose Marathon. She also suggested coupling information about the park patrol project with information about the species and history of the park to help broaden awareness of what the park has to offer.

Ms. Minnikin noted a discrepancy with some of the on leash areas in the park and she cited a particular path, Cedar Walk, where users enter the park that used to be off leash.

Mr. Rice commented that on leash areas typically radiate a certain distance from the parking lot. He shared that a comprehensive review of the on and off leash strategies for municipal parks was recently completed and that a report is scheduled to be released soon, although he was unsure of an exact date. The Committee continued to discuss with staff their concerns with on and off leash areas of the park.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Shilling Ceremony

Ms. Minnikin offered to follow up with Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Smallwood to suggest organizing a sub-committee meeting.

9.2.2 PPP Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-law Review

Councillor Mason commented that there is a fair allocation of the municipal budget to Parks and Recreation this year. He also noted some of the key projects planned around the municipality for fiscal 2016-17.

Mr. Morum asked whether it would be possible for funds to be allocated to a design study for the proposed visitor centre. Councillor Mason shared that there had been a desire to consolidate all buildings in need of upgrading, and that in the interim the Shakespeare by the Sea building burnt down and that they are now moving forward with rebuilding. He suggested that the Committee revisit this discussion at the May meeting after the municipal budget has been approved.

Ms. Boswick suggested that the Committee ask professors for students of Dalhousie's architecture and planning programs to undertake the re-imagination of the visitor centre as a school project. Ms. Boswick offered to reach out to Dalhousie to gauge interest in developing a design brief.

Councillor Mason commented on the Green Network Plan, a detailed region-wide parks plan, being developed and suggested that interested Committee members attend the public meeting on March 31 to understand how this project will impact Point Pleasant Park.

9.2.3 Off Leash

Moved by Ms. Minnikin, seconded Ms. Vickers

THAT off leash be removed as a standing agenda item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.4 Communications

Ms. Minnikin offered to recruit volunteers to give nature tours to groups attending the May long-weekend event to help change the tone to a park awareness event. Mr. Boudreau offered to help recruit volunteers as well.

Councillor Mason shared that he issues a twice yearly newsletter, in September and March, and that he could donate a ¼ page to Point Pleasant Park initiatives as well as share news via his constituent monthly e-newsletter.

9.2.5 Yearly Priorities

The Chair indicated that there was no update on this item.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Save Young Avenue discussion

Ms. Boswick shared information on the Save Young Avenue citizen campaign. She noted that there are two properties have recently been sold to the same developer. The Committee discussed the implications of developers moving in on historic properties in the area as well as zoning concerns.

10.2 Point Pleasant Park rules update

Mr. Rice commented that there are a few park issues that staff is looking to address this year and he wanted the Committee's input to bring to these discussions.

Mr. Rice shared that Point Pleasant Park is the only municipal park open until midnight. He noted that they have seen an increase in calls related to individuals camping and RVing in the park overnight. Ms. Minnikin commented that the astrological society chose the park as its viewing site because it is open later. The Committee continued to discuss the pros and cons of having the park remain open until midnight.

Mr. Rice shared that there have been concerns with the off leash rules around Sailors Memorial Way. He commented that the current rules indicate that dogs are permitted to be off leash before 10 a.m. and that they must not be present after 10 a.m. and that this is difficult to enforce. The Committee agreed that the area should allow on leash dogs all of the time.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Cailin MacDonald
Legislative Support