

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

November 8, 2012

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

REGRETS: Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
Ms. Katrina Leckovic
Mr. Geoff O'Connor
Mr. Robert Apold
Councillor Waye Mason

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 4:36 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 11, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Awalt, seconded by Ms. Olie that the minutes of October 11, 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 matter of an updated Complaints/Animal Control report be added as an agenda item. The Chair requested that further discussion of the Survey results be added as an item under Business Arising.

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

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 he has not heard any new information on this item.

The Chair noted that he and the Committee wished to take the opportunity to thank Mr, Awalt for his contribution to the Park tour following the October PPPAC meeting and his description of the cultural and historical importance of the Park to the Mi'kmaq community.

4.1.2 Validity of Signs and Enforcement/Tour follow-up

Committee members discussed their concerns regarding the placement of some signs in the Park and the consistency between old and newer signs in terms of information, visual symbols, and references to current or previous by-laws. Members noted that it may be possible to use the existing space allocated to signs more effectively and this would avoid the need for additional signage. Members also noted that QR codes for Park visitors with smartphones are on some signs and the use of these codes could be extended. The Committee emphasized that the comments are based on the short tour that the members conducted following the October PPPAC meeting and that what was needed was a comprehensive examination and inventory of the signage.

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks, noted that Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces, had accompanied the members on the tour and that he would

obtain Mr. Phelan's notes and observations. Mr. Rice added that he had spoken to the police officer who had responded to a recent complaint in the Park and the officer had informed him that the signs were adequate but that the officer had chosen to discuss the matter with the Park visitor rather than lay a charge.

4.1.3 Park User Survey

The Chair suggested that the Committee not deal with the survey results item by item but prepare a digest or brief summary of the survey's key points. Members agreed that Park users expressed significant concern about the enforcement of Park rules and how the different interests of visitors can come into conflict. Members emphasized that this matter is a key concern for the Committee as well, that the rules are appropriate and balanced but the presence and effectiveness of enforcement has been greatly reduced.

The Committee agreed that Ms. Vanstone would prepare a digest/summary of the key points of the survey results and that she would call Ms. Leckovic for her perspective on planning. Ms. Olie and Mr. Tilley also offered to assist with Mr. Tilley providing a list of the number of times certain recommendations or complaints appear in the results. Mr. Rice agreed to inquire with staff about the possibility of the postal code data being reconfigured as a visual graph indicating the residential areas of survey respondents. The Committee also requested that a prominent notice be placed on the Park website thanking those who responded, giving the total number of respondents and informing citizens that the results are currently being examined. Mr. Rice agreed to inquire into getting this notice onto the website quickly.

The Committee concluded its discussion by agreeing that once the digest/summary is complete, a subcommittee of PPPAC will request meetings to discuss the findings with peninsular Councillors, a representative of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, and a representative of the HRM staff Off-Leash Committee.

4.2 Staff Updates

Mr. Rice circulated a new Park brochure entitled "Cultural Tour of Point Pleasant Park." The Chair suggested making the brochure available to visitors attending the Remembrance Day ceremony in the Park. Mr. Rice stated that he would be in contact with the ceremony organizer the following day and would offer the brochures. Mr. Rice also noted that the Black Rock Beach Fish Tank had been damaged and was being repaired. Mr. Rice drew the Committee's attention to a few metal artifacts on a nearby counter; he added that they were discovered in the Park at various times and will now be examined by an archeologist.

Mr. Rice concluded his report by informing the Committee that Mr. Phelan is retiring at the end of 2012 and the December PPPAC meeting would be his last meeting with the Committee.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Letter from Mr. Ian Booth, forwarded by Councillor Watts

The Chair read out the letter from Mr. Booth and the forwarded note from Councillor Watts, dated November 7, 2012. The Committee agreed that the Chair would respond by letter to Councillor Watts, would mention the survey in the response and would note that Mr. Booth's concerns about the enforcement of Park rules concerning dogs is a key issue in the survey results. The Chair will also inquire if Councillor Watts wishes PPPAC to respond to Mr. Booth directly or if she will forward the response to Mr. Booth.

6.2 Petitions -- None

6.3 Presentations -- None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Segways – Report from Mr. Rastelli

The Chair requested that Mr. Rice ask HRM staff to inquire into obtaining Mr. Rastelli's report on the Segway pilot project.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Complaints/Animal Control

Mr. Tilley noted that the Committee heard a presentation from Mr. John Charles, Infrastructure and Planning and Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Animal Services, in January 2012. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to invite Mr. Charles and Ms. MacDonald to the January 2013 PPPAC meeting to provide updated complaint statistics and related information. The Chair requested that Mr. Rice convey the invitation and request, noting that current information was important for the Committee to have prior to meeting with Councillors.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – December 13, 2012

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Assistant