



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

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Ms. Helen Sinclair, Vice Chair
Mr. Malcolm Norton
Mr. Timothy Boudreau

REGRETS: Ms. Anastasia Smallwood
Ms. Sarah Estrin
Ms. Janice Cunningham

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

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

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee are available online: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/pppac/index.php

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

Roundtable introductions were made. The Chair noted that regrets for the meeting were received from Councillor Mason, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Smallwood, and Ms. Estrin.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 7, 2015 and notes from July 9, 2015

MOVED by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Norton

THAT the minutes of May 7, 2015 and notes from July 9, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Sinclair

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Update from Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks, provided an update on park activities. He noted that the summer season went well and that grass-cutting in the park had been contracted out, which freed up staff to complete forestry work elsewhere in the city. He also noted that fencing around the Point Pleasant battery had been replaced.

In response to a question from Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Rice stated that the relationship between municipal staff and the Halifax Port Authority is strong. He commented that in 2014 the Port had donated and installed two bicycle racks in the park.

Mr. Rice noted that since the formation of the Parks and Recreation business unit, greater emphasis has been placed on encouraging programming in underused spaces, including winter usage of parks like Point Pleasant. He indicated that the winter policies for 2015/2016 would be the same as 2014/2015, but that business planning is currently underway for the following winter. He confirmed that wood chips would be used in the park to establish walkable pathways when snow has accumulated.

7.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.2.1 Shilling Ceremony

Ms. Sinclair noted that the shilling ceremony would not be held in 2015 but suggested that it should be a priority for next year.

7.2.2 PPP Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-law Review

Committee members expressed interest in receiving an update on the status of the PPP Comprehensive Long Term Plan review and By-law review.

MOVED by Mr. Norton, seconded by Ms. Sinclair

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council request a staff update on the review of the Point Pleasant Park comprehensive long term plan and by-laws.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2.3 Off leash

Mr. Rice remarked that he had received an update from the Animal Services unit that patrols of the park had increased, leading to eight tickets issued in August to park users primarily for either failing to pick up after their pet or for off-leash dogs. Mr. Boudreau highlighted the importance of picking up after animals, noting that failure to do so affects nutrient cycling and may impact the local ecosystem.

Regarding signage in the park, Mr. Rice noted that there are plans to complete a survey of all park signs and to hold a discussion with bylaw and police officials to ensure that they are acceptable for enforcement purposes.

7.2.4 Mi'kmaq Warrior Memorial

The Chair noted that staff has indicated there is no funding for this project and proposed removing the item from the standing agenda, to which the committee indicated their general agreement.

7.2.5 Communications

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

7.2.6 Yearly Priorities

Mr. Norton indicated that having an easier to understand dog off-leash policy for the park should be a priority. He agreed to consider how this should be approached and bring something to the next meeting for discussion.

Ms. Sinclair noted that picnic tables are often moved away from areas where they are needed by groups who have booked the park for events. Mr. Rice indicated that he would discuss the issue with staff to find a solution.

7.2.7 Winter Park Usage

The Committee briefly discussed leaving access to trails used by skiers unplowed. Mr. Rice advised that failing to plow can lead to rutting if there is significant rainfall.

The Committee agreed to remove this item from the standing agenda.

7.2.8 Bicycle Access on Weekends – Councillor Mason

The following was before the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee:

- A Request for Committee Consideration form submitted by Councillor Mason

MOVED by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Boudreau

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report to examine the possibility of weekend bicycle access to Point Pleasant Park and to discuss the matter with the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Sinclair voiced concern that providing weekend park access to cyclists would present a danger to other park users.

Mr. Norton noted that the municipality is extending bicycle infrastructure in the city due to the positive effects of cycling. He stated that with proper signage to prevent excessive speeds, opening the park to bicycle access on weekends may be beneficial.

Mr. Boudreau suggested that perhaps certain designated routes through the park could be opened to cyclists on the weekend.

Committee members expressed an interest in deferring the decision until the next meeting so that Councillor Mason may have the opportunity to present his reasons for bringing the motion forward.

MOVED by Ms. Sinclair, seconded by Mr. Boudreau

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee defer the matter until the next meeting.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 5, 2015

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday November 5, 2015 in the Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Ms. Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant