

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
May 08, 2008  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Allan Robertson, Chair  
Mr. Paul Doane  
Ms. Anne West  
Ms. Gerrie Masters  
Mr. Duncan Morum  
Mr. Harald Norve  
Councillor Sue Uteck

REGRETS: Mr. Phillip Read  
Mr. Vivek Tomar  
Ms. Kate Greene  
Ms. Leanne Chisholm

HONORARY  
MEMBER(S): Ms. Janet Kitz

STAFF: Mr. John Charles, Planner, Infrastructure & Asset Management  
Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Infrastructure & Asset Management  
Ms. Nicole May, Landscape Architect, Infrastructure & Asset  
Management  
Mr. Brian Phelan, Superintendent of Parks and Open Spaces  
Mr. Stewart MacMillan, Landscape Architect, Infrastructure & Asset  
Management  
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Mr. Allan Robertson, called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm with the arrival of Mr. Paul Doane, making quorum.

Councillor Uteck arrived at 4:15 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - January 10, 2008

**MOVED by Mr. Norve, seconded by Ms. West, that the minutes of January 10, 2008 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

3. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS:**

**Additions:**

7.1. Point Pleasant Park - Off Leash Area Cleanliness Monitoring Results - April 21, 2008

**MOVED BY Mr. Norve, seconded by Mr. Morum, that the order of business and additions and deletions be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES** - None

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 **REVIEW OF PPP MASTER PLAN**

**Items I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII, respectively:**

**Executive Summary / Fate of Master Plan revisions suggested by PPPAC members/Addition of Charitable Foundation Concept to Master Plan/Implementation Portion of Master Plan/Prices and Project Phasing/Public Sessions/Presentation to Council**

Item numbers I through VII were discussed together as the total review of the Point Pleasant Park Master Plan.

Ms. Anne West advised that the Executive Summary had been prepared by herself and Ms. Gerrie Masters, with the assistance of Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager - Infrastructure & Asset Management. She advised that the Master Plan needs some input about the implementation chapter. Ms. Kitz suggested re-arranging the title from *Forest, First Nations and Fortress* to make it *Forest, Fortress and First Nations*.

Mr. Bigelow advised that there are some refinements to be made to the Master Plan for Point Pleasant Park, and would appreciate review and comments from the Committee, after which the plan will be submitted to the Consultants. The Committee was advised that there should be another meeting for discussion as the document is over three hundred pages, and then abstract [summary] will be submitted as a Report to Council of three to four pages. The Committee was advised that the following paragraph should be considered for the inside front page of the report:

*All these cultural resources together form an unusual combination of historic sites in a forest landscape. In most Canadian historic sites the cultural material is usually in full focus, with nature well tamed, while in nature-oriented parks any cultural resources are often neglected. In Point Pleasant Park the goal of the master plan is to achieve a balance; a distinctive landscape with clearly presented historic features in a forest setting, where cultural heritage and the natural environment enhance each other. (See Map 4.3.1 Cultural Management Zones)*

The Committee and Staff continued to discuss the proper formatting and distribution of specific portions of the Master Plan document, in readiness for the Report to Council. Mr. Robertson expressed concerns with the Committee not having adequate time to review the document as the Committee has not seen any revisions made to the document after their suggestions were sought in April for the first draft. He was advised by Staff that the Committee will review the document again at the end of May after the public meetings, in the final document stage. Staff advised that there would be two public sessions during the month of June. The document will be available through the website/ media coverage, open houses, and touring the park with Committee members/Staff and addressing questions/comments at that point. Mr. Bigelow further advised that Staff wants to hear back from the Consultants by the end of May.

Item # III- Addition of Charitable Foundation Concept to Master Plan - has been deferred for future discussion after public consultation and the Master Plan for Point Pleasant Park is approved.

Regarding Item # IV - Implementation portion of Master Plan - Mr. Bigelow advised that Staff will write and submit to the Committee to advise on the language prior to the next meeting.

The Committee was advised that the wording for this item should have been "Implementation Portion of Executive Summary".

Regarding Prices and Project Phasing, Staff advised that they are confident about putting money into forestry, but many things are dependent on external funding and with annual budgets. Councillor Uteck expressed she would like to send a copy of the phasing in the work plan to Minister MacKay.

Mr. Bigelow wanted clarification on the Report to Council. The Committee was advised that a joint report would be done from the PPPAC .

## **6.2 REPORT ON MEETING CAO REGARDING PPP FOUNDATION**

Mr. Robertson advised that he and Mr. Bigelow met with Mr. Wayne Anstey, the Deputy CAO, and that Mr. Anstey agreed with the two main concerns that people may not donate to a government while not knowing what the money went to; and the second was that a foundation would have better control over the money and would have a better, more commercial return on the money rather than letting it sit in HRM coffers. He further advised that he and Mr. Bigelow discussed the details of effectively morphing the existing foundation into one that was independent. Mr. Bigelow stated that the CAO advised that a report from the PPPAC would be required, and Mr. Bigelow will craft a report for the Committee's consideration.

## **6.3 Report on PPP logo and signage**

Ms. Nicole May gave a presentation to the Committee showing the PPP logo and signage on a circulated handout with the following items:

A new Point Pleasant Park logo - supplied by HRM  
Concept A - Park Tour Marker  
Concept B - Park Signage ( three styles)  
Concept C - Information Kiosk

She advised that she has an inventory of everything in the Park and there is an over-abundance of signage in Point Pleasant Park. She stated that there are six signs that are being proposed but would be presenting three of them for reasons of economy.

A discussion ensued with clarification from Ms. May and Staff on concerns/questions from the Committee with the following issues raised:

- height of signage
- colour scheme

- materials used; types of wood
- emergency telephones
- pictorial maps
- life expectancy of 70 years
- the difference from other parks
- public understanding of icons

Councillor Uteck retired from the meeting at 5:23 pm.

#### **6.4 WINTER WORKS PROGRAM**

Mr. Bigelow advised the Committee of the following programs:

- Planting is going to Council this Tuesday, May 13, 2008 of 42,000 seedlings; the planting will begin on that date
- The stone wall work has largely been completed
- The roadway up to the tower is still under design and not funded for construction at this point
- Shoreline study underway
- VIP (Volunteers in the Park ) program; design work being done; Embraced by Staff and the Union
- Mi'kmaq Report is due in two weeks time; will be brought back to the Committee
- Detailed study of regeneration in the Park; restoration; maintenance of viewplanes
- CBCL Nortech Resources
- Polyganum - Knot Weed Trials
- Public Gardens open today; hired an arborist
- More staff persons dedicated towards maintenance; snow and ice control; forestry

#### **6.5 HANDLING SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

**(I) Dog Jog**

This item was not addressed in this meeting. To be brought forth in a future meeting.

**(ii) Plantings by School Groups**

This item was not addressed in this meeting. To be brought forth in a future meeting.

**(iii) Bicycle and Segway Tours by Cruise Ship Visitors, etc. [including a process for funnelling through Park Manager's Office].**

The Committee was advised that bicycling in Point Pleasant Park would be allowed as long as cycling rules were followed; it would be viewed as a trial. In order for pedestrians and cyclists to mix, it has to be designated as a trail by the Traffic Authority or by the municipality. This item will be brought forward as an agenda item in a future meeting.

## 7. ADDED ITEMS

### 7.1 Point Pleasant Park - Off Leash Area Cleanliness Monitoring Results - April 21, 2008

Mr. John Charles, Planner - Infrastructure & Asset Management, gave a presentation to the Committee on the above topic, circulating a handout of the same title. As background, Mr. Charles advised that this is a report on the Park Offleash Areas Strategy, which was passed by Council in June 2007, whose responsibility is the HRM Interdepartmental Off Leash Strategy Committee to monitor the performance of all HRM offleash parks.

He pointed out that Point Pleasant Park was one of seven parks that were monitored and reported on. As the foundation of the privilege of having an offleash area in a park is cleanliness through having owners clean up after their dogs, small survey flags were placed beside locations in the park where owners had failed to do so. The survey focus was on two park trail areas adjacent to the upper parking lot; Lodge Road and at Cambridge Drive. Mr. Charles stated that, with the assistance of Councillor Uteck, 125 flags were planted.

Mr. Charles advised that Staff had to do a clean up and will go back in a month, and based on performance, there are some options - Section 3.4 of the Offleash Strategy which reads as follows:

#### 3.4 *Discretionary Park Redesignation Process*

*At its discretion, the Committee may revoke an on leash or off leash area designation and impose a "No Dogs" designation in a park or sportsfield where dog owners chronically fail to follow the "Stoop and Scoop" provisions of the Dog By-Law. The Committee may also choose to apply a "No Dogs" designation in a park or sportsfield where chronic user conflicts or environmental impacts cannot be resolved. The Committee will prepare an information report to the responsible Council stating its concerns and its intention to re-designate the affected park. This will be accompanied by a published public notice (14) days before the "No Dogs" designation is scheduled to take effect. On a semi-annual basis, reinstatement appeals will be considered by the Committee.*

Ms. Masters and Ms. Kitz expressed concern with whether the public will understand what the flags signified and suggested the use of signs for clarification. Mr. Charles advised that there has been media coverage of the flags and there is a lot of public warning involved.

A discussion ensued with Staff clarifying concerns expressed by the Committee, after which the following motion was put forth:

**MOVED by Mr. Morum, seconded by Ms. Masters that the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee endorse the recommendation of the Staff Report to allow the Interdepartmental Off Leash Strategy Committee to invoke Section 3.4 of the Off Leash Park Areas Strategy if there is further non-compliance after an additional month of monitoring. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the Point Pleasant Park AC is scheduled for June 12, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lodge in Point Pleasant Park.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Kitz congratulated Ms. West and Ms. Masters on the work done on the Master Plan for Point Pleasant Park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Sandra T. Riley  
Legislative Assistant