

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

June 18, 2009

PRESENT: Ms. Lisa Olie  
Mr. Don Awalt  
Ms. Gerrie Masters  
Mr. Phillip Read  
Mr. Harald Norve  
Ms. Kate Greene

Honorary Member: Ms. Janet Kitz

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck  
Mr. Douglas Keefe  
Mr. Bernard Badley  
Mr. Duncan Morum

STAFF: Mr. Stewart MacMillan, Landscape Architect, Infrastructure & Asset  
Management  
Mr. Brian Phelan, Superintendent, Municipal Operations  
Mr. Peter Bigelow, Real Property Planning  
Mr. Mark Calvi, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. at the Point Pleasant Park Office and Maintenance Building.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - April 9 and May 14, 2009

**MOVED BY Kate Greene, seconded by Phillip Read, that the minutes of April 9 and May 14, 2009 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Staff provided an update for kiosk repair and signage in the park. The bodies of kiosks have been fixed; subcontractors have installed footings and replaced any deteriorated framing with new construction. In some areas signage remains incomplete or in need of adjustment.

Mr. Peter Bigelow entered at 4:42 p.m.

Mr. Bigelow noted that the completion date of any remaining project deficiencies is no later than June 27, according to the contract.

There was some brief discussion regarding roof leakage and solar powered LED panel installations.

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

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

5.1 **Discussion of the Shilling Ceremony (Councillor Uteck)**

The status of Shilling Ceremony was discussed. It must be organized as soon as possible and it was agreed that an updated invitation list must be created for particular individuals or groups of interest, along with an advertisement for the general public to attend. Tours and walks should be organized, as well as a reception including refreshments. Markers may be of some use during touring. The Ceremony would present a great opportunity to promote some of the cultural and archeological aspects of the park.

Finding appropriate sponsors was also discussed along with finding a suitable location, such as Martello Tower, and whether or not there may be a need for tents. It was suggested that a bagpiper might be a nice addition.

In order to invite the Lieutenant Governor to attend, it was noted that Debbie Chambers would be the contact for the proper protocol. There was also discussion of contacting the Mayor's office to inquire of the 1866 ceremonial shilling and the status of the Montague Cup.

## **5.2 Orientation of New Members - (Presentation P. Bigelow)**

A presentation was given by Mr. Peter Bigelow, Real Property Planning, to provide some orientation to new members of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee and offer some historical and cultural background of the park as well as current operations in restoration and planning.

Mr. Bigelow mentioned three items to be brought forward for discussion in the coming weeks:

- Comprehensive Master Plan
- First Nations Mi'kmaq Study
- Coastal Erosion Study

The presentation summarized the process and progress for recovery of the park, future planning and recognition of the overall level of importance and value to people the park provides.

Threats to park were addressed, such as pests, Hurricane Juan and other weather conditions, and how these incidents became the impetus for the changes in management, cleanup and salvage operations of recent years.

Ekistics and NIP Paysage won the competition for the Master Plan and Management of Point Pleasant Park, with a united scientific and artistic approach.

The Comprehensive Plan seeks to provide a sustainable and enduring plan for the park, while protecting and celebrating its historical and cultural legacy.

Key elements of the plan are:

- Natural
  - forest and shoreline
  
- Cultural
  - early settlement and remnants
    - Aboriginal
    - Military
  - human use today
  - implementation and administration

The overall vision was to bring the park back to its resilience and natural beauty while maintaining a balance of the needs of users. Through detailed inventory and analysis from Ekistics, NIP Paysage, HRM Staff and the PPPAC, guiding principles were developed into an adaptive management plan. Information from Harvard Forest research in post hurricane recovery assisted in planning.

The Design Plan concentrated on impressions and landscape experience, panoramic and keyhole views, and various types of forest groves. Design elements include shoreline and parking lot improvements, a new visitor services building, and signage.

Mr. Bigelow noted that the Comprehensive plan is a technical document directed towards professionals who manage the park, but also the general public in a readily accessible manner. An operational plan is still being developed, and will employ a strategy for future management and regular operation.

Point Pleasant Park will employ a method of adaptive resource management implementation, which involves decision making with regular uncertainty, system monitoring over time and a learning by doing approach.

In terms of the forest, a native Acadian forest structure is being fostered; recovery and sustainability of the forest is progressing well. Cataloguing and surveying is ongoing through forestry studies, soil samples, landscaping, and map and photograph collections.

Mr. Bigelow also gave brief review of budget spending, capital funding, and donations for the Park.

Following the presentation, discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Gerrie Masters asked Mr. Bigelow to outline current priorities.

In response, Mr. Bigelow noted that the forestry aspect is moving forward well but that the adaptive management group must be formed (essentially a design and science implementation committee), and that they must have means to monitor in terms of resources and costs.

Mr. Bigelow stated that the cultural piece for the park will provide opportunity for development in celebrating Mi'kmaq settlement and history within the region, and may encourage potential federal interest in early military fortifications and European settlement. There have been some brief discussions with Parks Canada regarding such things as fort restoration.

From the operational perspective, staff commented that the hiring of specialized personnel has also been prioritized; new trainers and staff specializing in forestry and arboriculture have been actively working on the health and management of the forested areas of the park.

Committee members made mention of the change in growth within the park, such as wildflowers in various locations.

Forestry coop students from Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities are hired during summer months to undertake plot studies and fieldwork.

Ms. Janet Kitz noted that different bird species have been seen around the park, and mentioned that these sorts of observations made by the public might provide useful information as to the overall health of the area. Mr. Bigelow mentioned that these sorts of observations and comments could be uploaded to the park website in the form of a web diary, or anecdotal blog. This prompted Ms. Lisa Olie to inquire of the Plant Watch Program (observations of plants blooming, seeding, etc.), and whether there has been any interest in applying this to Point Pleasant Park.

Students have been asked to trap and relocate amphibians, observe habitats and changes in species.

Mr. Phillip Read inquired of the timeline and budget of the plan. Mr. Bigelow in response stated that the plan calls for a ten year forecast of the park. The initial focus was on the trees, but funding has since decreased compared to previous years due to recovery of the trees from threats, changeover of funding sources and the current work required.

Money that has been held for operational purposes can be leverage to receive more funding. It was discussed that the best use of funding would be to pick one thing and complete the project based on what is most at risk or provides the best opportunity.

Mr. Don Awalt noted that from conversations with elders in the Mi'kmaq community, there would be great interest in developing the Mi'kmaq cultural and historical elements of the park in due course. Mr. Bigelow indicated that funding has been earmarked for this, but that resources in this area have recently been engaged in the World Canoe Championship, which has a large Mi'kmaq component.

Ms. Olie inquired if the earmarked money aligns with the Comprehensive plan. Mr. Bigelow provided a brief breakdown of funding and added that there is reserve funding in waiting as well.

Promotional events and opportunities to draw people into the park were also discussed, and the logistical issues surrounding such events.

Compliments were given regarding the progress of work to date with items such as the wood chip trails.

The 250th Anniversary of the Founding Of The Royal Navy celebration ceremony in the park was discussed.

Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks, handed out park information cards for distribution by Committee members.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Request to Speak - Emergency Procedures**

Deferred until next meeting.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

## **8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE**

The next regular meeting of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 9, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at the Point Pleasant Park Office and Maintenance Building.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Mark Calvi  
Legislative Assistant