

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 5, 2013

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Ms. Nancy Vanstone
Ms. Helen Sinclair
Ms. Paula Minniken

REGRETS: Mr. Aaron Windsor
Ms. Lisa Ollie
Mr. Peter Duinker
Mr. Will Gregory
Ms. Annette Hartt
Mr. John Simmons, Acting Superintendent of Parks
Ms. Brenda Keddy, General Manager, Halterm

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 7, 2013

MOVED by Ms. Vanstone seconded by Ms. Minniken that the minutes of November 7, 2013 be approved as amended.

1. Councillor Mason was not present at the November 7, 2013 meeting.
2. Item 4.3 should read as:

Ms. Vanstone expressed concerns that there are not enough patrols and enforcement is an issue. She stated that a letter was sent to the Off Leash Committee in May 2013 and no reply has been provided to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee. By – Law enforcement was a significantt issue raised in the recent user survey. Follow up should also be requested on the recommendations that were made to Regional Council. Ms. Vanstone was asked to prepare a follow up letter on behalf of the PPPAC to the Off Leash Committee, By-Law Enforcement Staff and Community Council seeking follow up on the recommendations for a compliance strategy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Ms. Vanstone seconded by Ms. Minniken that the order of business be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/ STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Update from Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks

Mr. Rice reported the following to the Committee:

- An inspection to the playground fence after the wind storm, showed that it would have to be taken down and replaced. A barrier will be installed around the area for safety and security reasons.
- Gates to the park were damaged during the storm. A police report was filed and the gates will be repaired in the near future.
- The main roads will be kept open during the winter months, a mixture of 90% sand and 10% salt will be used on the roads. Clearing foot paths will be an issue due to staffing.
- Business as usual.

4.2 Update from Mr. John Simmons, Acting Superintendent of Parks

No update at this time.

4.3 Off Leash

The Committee entered into discussion on Dogs Off Leash in the park. The Chair gave a brief history of dogs off leash in the park. He stated that there are rules and times when off leash is allowed. He stated that the public has commented on being attacked by dogs, dogs running in sensitive areas such as grave sites and picnic areas.

The Chair commented that the park is now collecting statistics and are reported to the Committee and that we need to get a grasp of the issues. He noted that a presentation was made to Community Council with a number of recommendations. The Chair also noted that Animal and Parking Enforcement patrols has increased, but dogs off leash is still a very contentious issue.

Mr. Awalt expressed concern that the park is becoming known as a dog park and that the public is not using the services. He also noted that there are cultural issues within the park such as the grave yard and burial sites that are out of the way and dogs are running loose. He stated that he would like this issue to be taken into consideration.

Ms. Vanstone noted that we need to have clear straight forward rules and any changes in these rules should be included in the Plan Review. She also requested clarification on who is responsible for the Plan review.

Ms. Minniken stated that she would like clarification on by-laws pertaining to the feeding of animals in the park and who is responsible for the enforcement of these by-laws. Mr. Rice responded that By-Law A-300 covers this issue.

The committee agreed that a letter be sent to CPED regarding the recommendations made, a review of the Terms of Reference, and where PPPAC reports to. Councilor Mason stated he would get clarification from the Clerk's Office as to where to send the letter. The following five recommendations will be included in the letter: Enforcement of existing rules must be improved; Signage should be reviewed for consistency and to improve awareness; Park staff should review suggestions for improvements; The PPPAC and HRM should use the detailed comments for input in planning park activities and potential changes and; Surveys need to be done regularly to inform and guide park planning. It was also that that the PPPAC would like to have a better and more positive working relationship with the Off Lease Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Minniken, seconded by Ms. Sinclair that a letter be sent to the Off Leash Committee with the Committee's recommendations and concerns, subject to clarification of where to send it. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**
6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - None**
7. **REPORTS - None**
8. **ADDED ITEMS - None**
9. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**
10. **NEXT MEETING DATE – January 9, 2014**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Darcy Warren
Legislative Support