

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 4, 2013

PRESENT: Mr. Duncan Morum, Chair
Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Ms. Nancy Vanstone
Ms. Vanessa Lilly
Mr. Aaron Windsor
Ms. Helen Sinclair
Mr. Will Gregory

REGRETS: Ms. Lisa Olie
Ms. Sara Ehrhardt
Councillor Wayne Mason

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Mr. John Simmons, Acting Superintendent of Parks
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support
Mr. Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed new members and invited Committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2013

Mr. Windsor requested the following changes to section 8.1 of the March 7, 2013 minutes:

That the first sentence of the second paragraph read as follows: “Mr. Windsor explained that he has examined what some other cities do in terms of endowed park foundations that can fundraise for ongoing improvements and maintenance; the City Parks Foundation of NYC was given as an example.”

That these sentences be added to the end of the third paragraph: “Mr. Windsor explained that he wishes to found a wholly independent Not-for-Profit and not a sub-committee; the Point Pleasant Park Society will be unaffiliated with the HRM political structure. Mr. Windsor agreed to provide a cover letter detailing his plan for the April PPPAC meeting.”

MOVED by Ms. Lilly, seconded by the Chair that the minutes of March 7, 2013 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair suggested that the Committee hear item 7.1.1 after item 4, and that the Committee add updates on the Shilling Ceremony and the Park User Survey under item 9. The Committee agreed that the Order of Business be **approved, as amended.**

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Proposal from Dogs for Point Pleasant Park (dogs4ppp.com)

A letter dated January 23, 2013 from Ms. Anne West to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee (PPPAC) was before the Committee. A brief proposal, dated January 30, 2013 from dogs4ppp was also before the Committee.

Mr. Trent Boswick, Ms. Regina Fox and Ms. Anne West outlined the proposal as allocating a small section of fence where park users could place the tags of pets that have died. Mr. Boswick emphasized these points:

- The group hoped that the small, informal nature of the concept would place the proposal outside the policy on memorials
- The group does not wish to take up staff resources or otherwise divert attention from or progress on the implementation of the Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture
- Part of the idea of the memory fence is to promote responsible use of the Park and awareness of the Park rules
- The group is concerned about the possibility of alienating Park users who have requested plaques or benches in memory of a deceased family member

The Committee entered into a discussion with some members expressing support for the idea in principle. Members also raised several questions or concerns including the following:

- The appropriate location given that many fences in the Park are scheduled to be taken down and other areas are currently off limits to dogs at certain times
- What would happen to the memorial tags when the fence needs replacement and if tag storage would incur costs
- This type of memory fence could contribute to the perception held by some users that the Park is increasingly a “dog park”
- Individuals or groups who have requested memorials in the Park may be offended or feel that the criteria or process is not applied equally.

Staff clarified that, since 2005, HRM policy does not permit personal memorials, plaques, or markers on trees or benches. Mr. Simmonds, Acting Superintendent of Parks, noted that a fence or area for tags would be examined within the framework of that policy. He added, however, that he encouraged the group to bring forward a more detailed proposal, that staff would consider it and would also seriously consider any recommendations from the PPPAC.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

5.1 Update from Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that the Flag-the-Poop awareness exercise was scheduled for Thursday April 11, 2013, weather permitting. He added that the flags would cover 100-150 metres of Cambridge Drive and would be left in place throughout the weekend. He noted that there would be an accompanying display that would emphasize respecting Park rules and by-laws. He stated that the event would be posted on the HRM website and a press release issued.

Mr. Rice then informed the Committee that the signage improvements in the Park were 75 per cent finished and would be completed soon. He also provided information on the

Google analysis of visits to the Point Pleasant Park website (more than 30,000 visits in 2012).

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Point Pleasant Park Society – Aaron Windsor

Mr. Windsor explained that the idea of the Society is to create an apolitical vehicle for donations, an endowment that could distribute funds for improvements in the Park. He clarified that a position of General Manager would only be necessary if the Society or eventual Foundation grew to a certain size. He added that the concept of the Society did not align or overlap with the Friends of Point Pleasant Park as the focus of that group was more advocacy and policy.

Mr. Simmonds suggested that Mr. Windsor discuss the idea with Councillor Mason who could bring the matter before the Halifax and West Community Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Proposal from Dogs for Point Pleasant Park

This item was dealt with above, see page 3.

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations -- None

8. REPORTS -- NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Shilling Ceremony

The Chair explained the history of the Shilling Ceremony and noted that the Ceremony has not been held for at least ten years. He also noted that some funds were secured in 2012 and an invitation list finalized. Mr. Windsor agreed to look into the possibility of holding a Ceremony in 2013. The Chair stated he would assist, and would contact Ms. Olie to see if she could help organize the event. Mr. Aubut, Legislative Assistant, noted that he would inquire into the current status of the funding.

9.2 Park User Survey and Clicker Survey

Ms. Vanstone stated that she hoped a PPPAC representative could do a presentation on the survey results to Halifax and West Community Council, possibly with the

assistance of Councillor Mason. She added that it was also an option to send the presentation by email. Mr. Aubut offered to bring the request to do a presentation to Halifax and West Community Council.

The Committee also discussed implementing a simple clicker count survey on the number of visitors to the Park. Members agreed that the most useful data would come from replicating, as much as was feasible, the previous clicker survey as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan document. Mr. Simmons noted that he would look into this possibility and what resources might be available.

9.3 Mi'kmaq Warrior Sculpture

Mr. Awalt provided a brief description to new Committee members of the sculpture project and proposed location. He added that he would circulate some additional details on the project to members by email.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 2, 2013

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support