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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2013

Ms. Vanstone requested that the first sentence of item 9.2 of the minutes be amended to read as follows: “Ms. Vanstone stated that she hoped a representative of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee could do a presentation on the survey results to Halifax & West Community Council, possibly with the assistance of Councillor Mason.”

MOVED by Ms. Vanstone, seconded by Mr. Windsor that the minutes of April 4, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed that the Order of Business be approved, as presented.

As the meeting progressed, the Committee agreed to add the following items:

- 8.1 Washrooms & Water Fountains
- 8.2 Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan – Five Year Review

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STAFF UPDATES

4.1 Update from Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks

Mr. Rice informed the Committee that the Flag the Poop awareness exercise took place two weeks ago, beginning on a Thursday morning. He stated that staff targeted an area of the Park and placed 350 flags, which were left in place for one week. He added that there was significant media coverage and public comment. The Chair asked if the media interviews could be linked to the Park website. Mr. Rice responded that he would inquire into this and add the links if possible.

Mr. Rice also informed the Committee that a representative from Parks Canada had contacted him to convey that there would be no federal staff available this summer to open the Prince of Wales Tower or conduct tours. He added that he is anticipating a Parks Canada press release or announcement on this decision and that he will put the link on the Park website.

In response to questions, Mr. Rice described the upcoming roadwork repair sites and which materials were chosen to deal with uneven surfaces. He also explained that there are eight or ten garbage cans in the lower Parking Lot and staff do a lot clean-up every morning. Mr. Simmons, Acting Superintendent of Parks, responded to a question about conducting a clicker survey. He noted that staff are examining the cost of funding the

survey, especially if the survey attempts to match weekend data gathered in 1999. Several members of the Committee stated that they would help with a survey so that all Park entrances could be covered. Mr. Rice agreed that if survey funding is approved, he will send the proposed date to PPPAC members and request volunteers. Mr. Rice concluded his report by noting that the Battle of the Atlantic memorial event would take place May 5, 2013 and that a large crowd was expected.

4.2 Update from Andrea MacDonald, Manager of License Standards

Committee members expressed concern about the Patrol Summary (March 18 – April 18, 2013) provided by Ms. MacDonald. Members stated that the summary did not provide sufficient information or match their own experiences in the Park. They suggested that a description of an ongoing plan for patrolling would be more helpful. Members also pointed out that summary offence tickets might be issued more often if the fine were more in line with parking tickets. Mr. Simmons noted that he would speak to Patrol staff about how the amount of the fine is set. Mr. Rice added that the Off-Leash Committee was meeting next week. The Committee agreed that Ms. Vanstone would draft a letter that would outline PPPAC concerns and also include some comments from the Park User Survey. Ms. Vanstone agreed to circulate the draft to Committee members and to Mr. Ted Aubut, Legislative Assistant. Mr. Aubut noted that he will copy Councillor Mason on the draft, obtain comments if any, and arrange for the letter to be sent out under the Chair's signature.

4.3 Update from Aaron Windsor – Shilling Ceremony

Mr. Windsor informed the Committee that he has been working with Mr. Aubut on an updated invitation and contact list and has begun an informal invitation process to determine the availability of guests and speakers. He added that the proposed date is June 22, 2013 and that several guests including the Lieutenant-Governor and Mayor Savage have indicated their interest and availability. The Chair noted that PPPAC has no budget or spending authority. Mr. Windsor mentioned possible sponsorship opportunities and agreed to work with Mr. Aubut on finalizing cost estimates. Committee members discussed the potential benefits of connecting the Shilling Ceremony event to arts programming in the Park, including Shakespeare by the Sea, and to the VIP (Volunteers in the Park) program.

The Chair and members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Windsor for his initiative and work on the Ceremony.

4.4 Update from Clerk's Office – Presentation to Halifax & West Community Council

Committee members confirmed their interest in presenting highlights of the Park User Survey to the Halifax & West Community Council meeting on May 13, 2013. The Chair, Ms. Vanstone and Ms. Olie stated they could attend the meeting. Mr. Aubut explained that there would be five minutes allowed for a presentation followed by a question and

answer period. He added that if the Committee wished to forward a longer presentation to the Halifax & West Community Council prior to the meeting, he would need that presentation by May 8, 2013. The Committee agreed that Ms. Vanstone would send a proposed presentation out to members for comment and then forward it to Mr. Aubut. Mr. Awalt retired from the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS -- NONE

7. REPORTS -- NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Washrooms/Water fountains

Ms. Vanstone noted that the Park User Survey produced many comments on washrooms and water fountains. Mr. Rice noted that staff are inquiring into funding priorities under Capital Works. The Chair requested that Capital Works funding projects for the Park be placed on the June 2013 PPPAC agenda.

8.2 Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan – Five-Year Review

The Chair noted that the Comprehensive Plan was coming due for its five-year review. Mr. Simmons stated that he would discuss the review with Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Public Lands Management and would bring an update to the June PPPAC meeting.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Aubut provided information on Administration Order One and the procedures followed by HRM community councils and committees. He explained that community councils provide a designated time slot for residents to speak or ask questions and that the Chair moderates the time allowed. Committee members expressed support for the model, stating that it would clarify the process, create consistency and organize the public input that the Committee values. The members present agreed unanimously that public participation should be placed on future agendas as an ongoing item. Mr. Aubut noted that he would send an information item on this decision to those members not present.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 6, 2013

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support