



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100th ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 10, 2014**

PRESENT: Mr. Craig Walkington, Chair
Mr. Dwight Dorey, Vice Chair
Mr. David Sutherland
Mr. Will Robinson-Mushkat
Ms. Renee Gruszecki
Mr. Jeffery Haggett
Ms. Marilyn Elliott
Ms. Pat Jessup

STAFF: Mr. Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Halifax Explosion 100th
Anniversary Advisory Committee are available online: enter link*
[http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/100thAnniversaryHalifaxExplosionCommitteeAugust272014.p
hp](http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/100thAnniversaryHalifaxExplosionCommitteeAugust272014.php)

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 27th, 2014

MOVED by Marilyn Elliott, seconded by Will Robinson-Mushkat that the minutes of August 27th, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

Mr. Walkington announced that he had received an e-mail from Michael Dupuis, a Canadian author who is writing a book on the Halifax Explosion, and that he had instructed Mr. Dupuis to forward his correspondence to City Hall. Mr. Walkington advised the Committee that all committee members should do the same with any correspondence they might receive, so as to make sure all correspondence reaches the Committee in the appropriate manner.

6.2 Petitions - NONE

6.3 Presentation - NONE

7. REPORTS - NONE

7.1 STAFF - NONE

7.2 COMMITTEE

7.2.1 Discussion – Committee Structure (Sub-Committees)

Mr. Walkington questioned the Committee about their ideas regarding the creation of different sub-committees. The Committee addressed the different areas of expertise amongst its members and considered that it might be too early to break off into distinct sub-committees before establishing a vision and a set of guiding principles. It was observed that there is a need for background information on previous commemorations of the Halifax Explosion, as well as an understanding of best practices for commemoration in general.

7.2.2 Discussion – Committee Work and Next Steps

Mr. Walkington suggested that the next step may be to build up background knowledge of previous commemorations of the Halifax Explosion and to invite members of the public to brief the Committee on specific areas as a method for establishing a guiding principle for the Committee and developing an understanding of the Committee's scope.

The Committee considered the differences between practices of commemoration and practices of celebration and emphasized the importance of public opinion. Questions were raised regarding what, if any, budget the Committee had to work with. It was suggested that, as an advisory committee, the

Committee would be advising Regional Council, but would not be working directly with funds. It was suggested that at least an awareness of the budgetary limitations is important as it determines the scope of the Committee's recommendations. Mr. MacSween agreed to get back to the Committee regarding this issue.

MOVED by Mr. Jeffery Haggett, seconded by Ms. Renee Gruszecki that the initial work of the Halifax Explosion 100th Advisory Committee be to collect, receive and seek background information towards interpreting and developing a vision and guiding principles. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Walkington suggested that the Committee continue a discussion in the form of a roundtable on the areas and themes central to establishing a vision and set of guiding principles for the Committee. From this discussion emerged ten main areas: public files and the relief commission; redevelopment and city planning; housing and relocation, racism and marginalized peoples (specifically residents of Africville and First Nations Peoples); best practices of commemoration; preservation of story-telling; education (specifically childhood education with a focus on Nova Scotia Schools); gender inequality in practises of compensation following the Halifax Explosion; external aid and relief; and a brief historical overview of the Halifax Explosion and aftermath.

A number of names were mentioned of scholars, historians, archivists, and writers that would be potentially valuable speakers for a workshop or symposium. The Committee discussed the best method for deciding upon who would be invited to speak to the Committee and what type of event would be most beneficial to the completing the next steps of Committee work.

MOVED by Mr. Jeffery Haggett, seconded by Ms. Renee Gruszecki that the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Advisory Committee request input from staff to assist with the development of a future workshop, topics, and list of potential invitees. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee finished with a discussion of the appropriate timing for the next meeting. It was decided that it would be premature to continue with the meeting scheduled for September 17th, and consequently the Committee decided to meet next on October 1st, to be followed by another meeting on October 15th, and then in accordance with an established monthly schedule. The committee decided that an update on the list of proposed speakers for the workshop would be an important agenda item for the next meeting and ended their discussion by expressing their intention to have their vision and guiding principles established by the end of 2014.

7.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 1st, 2014

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support