



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100th ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 16, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Craig Walkinton, Chair
Mr. Will Robinson-Mushkat
Ms. Pat Jessup
Mr. David Sutherland
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Ms. Renee Gruszecki

REGRETS: Mr. Dwight Dorey, Vice Chair
Ms. Marilyn Elliott

STAFF: Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events and Cultural Events
Mr. Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer, Parks & Recreation
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, 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 the Committee are available online at: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/HEAAC150916agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 3:24 p.m. and adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:24 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 15, 2015

MOVED by Ms. Pat Jessup, seconded by Mr. David Sutherland,

THAT the minutes of July 15, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 4.3 Update – Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Grant Program
- 8.1 Statement by Ms. Renee Gruszecki

MOVED by Ms. Gruszecki, seconded by Ms. Jessup,

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Update – ad hoc Stakeholder Staff Working Group August meeting – Elizabeth Taylor, Manger, Culture and Events.

The following was before the Committee:

- *Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Project Plans, Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage*

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture and Events, informed the Committee that staff met with Provincial stakeholder staff regarding the commemorative plans of each group. The handout entitled “Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Project Plans” gives a brief synopsis of the ongoing plans for commemoration for: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Nova Scotia Archives, Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Nova Scotia Museum. The stakeholders concurred that a joint communication strategy is important to prevent duplication and redundancy of events. Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that she introduced the idea of a digital platform to the other stakeholders and this idea was met with great interest.

Ms. Jessup questioned if the Navy had been contacted. Ms. Taylor replied that the Navy did not fall under the category of Provincial Stakeholders, adding that the Navy certainly could be contacted in the future.

Mr. Sutherland suggested that a researcher or graduate student be hired to provide guidance and knowledge during the commemorative process.

Councillor Watts suggested that staff enter into conversation with the Military, local church communities, local academic communities, and any other identified stakeholder group regarding the ongoing plans for commemoration.

Ms. Taylor indicated that this process has already begun and will continue as preparations continue.

4.2 Update – Committee Vacancy – Legislative Assistant

Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, informed the Committee that the vacancy created when Mr. Jeffry Haggett resigned will be advertised to the public in October. The position is for a citizen with experience in corporate, government, or charitable fund raising.

4.3 Update – Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Grant Program

Ms. Taylor updated the Committee that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee met earlier today, and forwarded the staff recommendation to Regional Council. She noted that the Mayor Savage acknowledged both the good work of the Committee and the importance of the commemorative event in fostering community. Ms. Taylor suggested that this response is a good sign that Council will be supportive of the proposed Grants Program, which if approved, could be launched in January. The Chair questioned if it would be better if the launch took place on December 6, 2015, exactly two years prior to the 100th anniversary. Ms. Taylor agreed to take this idea back to staff for discussion.

Ms. Taylor updated the Committee on her efforts to secure Heritage Canada funding.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Correspondence and video from Gordon Wayhay, dated May 12, 2015, re: Model Railroad of Halifax/Dartmouth/Bedford prior to 1917

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence and video from Gordon Wayhay, dated May 12, 2015, re: Model Railroad of Halifax/Dartmouth/Bedford prior to 1917.

The Committee viewed the video.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Correspondence from Dianne Kathleen (Leston) Robinson dated August 20, 2015

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Dianne Kathleen (Leston) Robinson, dated May 28, 2015
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This correspondence will be added to the Committee's list of submissions received, for future reference.

6.1.2 Correspondence from Gerry Meade dated September 14, 2015

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Gerry Meade dated September 14, 2015

This correspondence will be added to the Committee's list of submissions received, for future reference.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1. STAFF

7.1.1 Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Memorial Event – Planning Update & Discussion/Feedback on Concepts for December 6, 2017 morning event – Culture & Events staff

Ms. Taylor informed the Committee that the morning event is still in the conceptual changes and she would like the opportunity to engage the Committee in a brainstorming session regarding the event, ideally at the next meeting. The Committee agreed to dedicate an hour of the next meeting to this discussion.

7.1.2 Progress Report to Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee – Committee Input

The Legislative Assistant indicated that the Admin Order for the Committee requires a twice annual information report updates on the status of the Municipal Commemorative Program to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee from staff, with consultation from the Committee.

Mr. Peter Bigelow explained to the Committee that Ms. Taylor, Ms. Temple, and he would each address the Committee's work in their annual report.

Mr. Bigelow responded to questions of clarification from Committee members.

At the Chair's request, staff agreed to look into whether the draft report could be circulated to Committee members prior to submission to the Standing Committee.

Mr. Bigelow gave a brief progress report to the Committee regarding the Fort Needham project. He informed the Committee that staff will be hosting a public meeting on October 1, 2015 at 7:00 at United Memorial Church and that the plan will go to Community Planning and Economic Development later that month. Ms. Weagle agreed to send a reminder about this event to Committee members. Mr. Bigelow commented that the Committee would be asked to provide advice to staff in regards to the detailed design of the project, especially in terms of its commemorative role, in the future.

7.2 COMMITTEE – None

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Announcement – Ms. Renee Gruszecki

Ms. Renee Gruszecki informed the Committee that she had been invited in August to join the Narratives in Space and Time Collective, and, for the sake of transparency, would like to make the Committee aware of this role.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – 3:00 – 5:00, Room B239, NSCC, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:27p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support