



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
December 14, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Craig Walkington, Chair  
Ms. Marilyn Elliott  
Mr. Barry Cahill  
Mr. Dan O'Brien  
Ms. Pat Jessup, Vice Chair  
Mr. William Robinson-Mushkat  
Mr. David Sutherland

**REGRETS:** Ms. Renee Gruszecki

**STAFF:** Ms. Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead, Tax, Grants & Special Projects  
Ms. Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, Policy and Planning  
Ms. Kellie McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk

*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: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/explosion/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 4:46 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 19, 2016**

Pat Jessup noted that page 3 of the minutes should read “Admiralty House”.

MOVED by Will Robinson-Mushkat, seconded by Pat Jessup

**THAT the minutes of October 19, 2016 be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Chair noted that item 9.2.1 would be deferred to the January regular meeting in Renee’s absence.

MOVED by David Sutherland, seconded by Marilyn Elliott

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Correspondence re: George Elliott Clarke, Parliamentary Poet Laureate**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence to and from staff and George Elliott Clarke, Parliamentary Poet Laureate, dated November 23 and December 8, 2016.

The Committee received the correspondence from Mr. Clarke, in which he accepted a request from staff to commission a poem in commemoration of the Halifax Explosion.

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

**7.1.1 From James Barry, President of the Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums dated November 9, 2016**

Correspondence received.

**7.1.2 From Gary Kissal, Curator, Marblehead Dory & Schooner Museum dated November 16, 2016**

Correspondence received.

**7.1.3 From Kathy and Paul Hinch dated November 17, 2016**

Correspondence received.

The Committee tabled for a later discussion how to recognize living survivors, including how the information would be collected.

The Chair asked that this be added to the January agenda.

**7.1.4 From Gillian Fowler dated December 1, 2016**

Correspondence received.

**7.1.5 From Wendy Robicheau dated December 7, 2016**

Pat Jessup indicated that she met Ms. Robicheau at the memorial service, and Ms. Robicheau is interested in engaging Acadia University in the commemoration. Ms. Temple offered to write to Ms. Robicheau with some options.

Ms. Jessup indicated she had also spoken with a representative from Irving at the memorial service, who indicated Irving's interest in contributing to the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, indicated that she and Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture & Events, had discussed this with Irving a few months ago, and Ms. Koziak-Roberts advised she will speak with Ms. Taylor about this further and update the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

**7.1.6 From Carol Bruneau dated December 8, 2016**

Correspondence received.

**7.1.7 From Bob Burns dated December 8, 2016**

The Legislative Assistant will direct Mr. Burns to the 100 Years 100 Stories website to contact them directly.

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentation - None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Approval of the 2017 Meeting Schedule**

The following was before the Committee:

- The 2017 proposed meeting schedule

Members discussed the end date of the Committee following the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion in December 2017 and agreed to discuss it further later in the year.

MOVED by Will Robinson-Mushkat, seconded by Pat Jessup

**THAT the 2017 meeting schedule be approved as proposed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.2 Time Capsules and Needham Memorial Bell Tower - Kellie McIvor, HRM Cultural Asset Manager**

The following was before the Committee:

- Time Capsule Information from staff dated October 2016 and December 14, 2016

Kellie McIvor, HRM Cultural Asset Manager, reviewed the information before the Committee regarding the Needham Memorial Bell Tower time capsule from 1985, planning for the new time capsule to be inserted in the bell tower in 2017, and guidelines around time capsules in general. She noted that the space for the time capsule is small, allowing for a capsule measuring 12" x 4" x 9".

Ms. McIvor indicated that she is not available to attend the January workshop, but will put forward some suggestions for the Committee's consideration. She indicated that the Committee will want to give consideration to the 1985 time capsule being opened. Ms. McIvor discussed the possibility of including Committee members in the production of items from the Municipal Archives to include in the time capsule. She spoke of the importance of preparing materials for longevity, and encouraged the Committee to get it done early before members are busy with commemoration events.

Dan O'Brien indicated that from materials he has read on the 1985 time capsule, the time capsule is supposed to be opened at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He noted that consideration should be given to who will be there when it is opened. Ms. McIvor spoke of the significant preparation that needs to take place before opening the capsule, and the protocol and process for ensuring the preservation of those materials.

It was noted that the contents of the 1985 time capsule are outlined in "Shattered City" by Janet Kitz, who was a member of the 1985 time capsule committee. The Chair advised that he has spoken with Alec McCleave, who was also a member of the 1985 time capsule committee, and the Chair invited him to participate in the workshop. The Committee discussed extending an invitation to Janet Kitz as well, which Ms. Elliott agreed to do.

The Committee discussed how to display the original items for the public at the memorial service. Ms. McIvor indicated that the same space would be used for the new time capsule. She indicated that the 1985 time capsule will only be 32 years old, and the 2017 one could potentially rehouse some of the items from the 1985 time capsule.

The Committee discussed the planning of the Time Capsule Workshop, and agreed to the following details:

- Saturday, January 7, 2017
- Nova Scotia Community College – IT Campus
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Kellie will provide information for the committee to consider at the workshop.
- Ms. Elliott will invite Janet Kitz, and the Chair will invite Alec McCleave.
- Invite culture staff to attend, if available.
- The Legislative Assistant will take minutes.

**9.2.1 Public Perception of the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Advisory Committee – Renee Gruszecki**

This item was deferred in Ms. Gruszecki's absence.

**9.2.2 Addressing Historical Misconceptions about the Halifax Explosion and Aftermath**

David Sutherland discussed historical inaccuracies that were brought up through the media, organizations and government officials recently with regard to the Halifax Explosion and its aftermath, particularly that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind administered relief funds and survivor pensions after the explosion, when in fact relief funds and survivor pensions were handled by the Halifax Relief Commission, and then the Federal government.

Barry Cahill commented on the need for evidence based recorded facts about the explosion.

Another misconception discussed was the history surrounding the tree to Boston, which was first sent in 1918 and then not again until 1971. Mr. Sutherland advised that it was in fact the Governor of Massachusetts and other New England states that sent relief from the United States. Many other areas of Nova Scotia and Canada also sent relief, including \$18 million in contributions from the Federal Government.

The Committee also discussed that research indicates that there was a memorial event for the Halifax Explosion in 1985, and then not again for another decade.

Mr. Sutherland noted that local Remembrance Day ceremonies do not acknowledge the civilian dead of the Halifax Explosion.

The Committee discussed how to best correct some of these misconceptions for the historical record, and the moral and ethical obligation to get the history correct.

Members discussed that it should be promoted that Needham Memorial Park and the Halifax North Memorial Library exist due to the contributions of the Halifax Relief Commission.

The Committee discussed that members of the Committee have some expertise on the history of the Explosion and the aftermath, and offered their assistance with vetting historical information coming from public officials and the media for accuracy.

#### **10. ADDED ITEMS**

The Chair noted that the annual election for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair will be on the January regular meeting agenda.

Members of the Committee commented on the good job of the Chair as Master of Ceremonies of the Memorial Ceremony on December 6, 2016.

MOVED by Barry Cahill, seconded by Marilyn Elliott

**THAT the Committee puts forward a motion of appreciation to the Chair, Craig Walkington, for his duties as Master of Ceremonies of the Memorial Ceremony on December 6, 2016.**

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Time Capsule Workshop – Saturday, **January 7, 2017**, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Nova Scotia Community College – IT Campus
- Regular Meeting – Wednesday, **January 18, 2017**, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Nova Scotia Community College, IT Campus

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant