

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 12, 2011

PRESENT: Mr. Don Awalt, Vice Chair
Mr. Richard Tilley
Mr. Dale Smith
Ms. Theresa Piorkowski
Ms. Lisa Olie
Ms. Nancy Vanstone
Mr. Robert Apold

REGRETS: Councillor Sue Uteck
Ms. Katrina Leckovic

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor of Major Parks
Mr. Brian Phelan, Supervisor of Parks and Open Spaces
Ms. Siobhan Wiggans, Arts Programmer, Community relations
and Cultural Affairs
Mr. Rudy Vodicka, Coordinator, Real Property Policy
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Pam Lovelace, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Don Awalt called the meeting to order at 4:35pm in the Maintenance building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

The Vice Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves as there were many new members.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOVED by Ms. Lisa Olie, seconded by Mr. Richard Tilley, that the election of Chair and Vice Chair be deferred to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2011 and April 14, 2011

Amendments:

The April 14, 2011 minutes should be considered notes only, as quorum was not present at the meeting.

MOVED by Ms. Lisa Olie, seconded by Ms. Theresa Piorkowski, that the minutes of February 11, 2011 and notes of April 14, 2011 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Discussion:

Mr. Tilley suggested that the note to staff regarding coyote policy, Item 7.1.1 April 14, 2011 notes also include mention of elderly along with the mention of children.

Mr. Tilley requested more information on the specifics of the Work Plan as noted in the February 10, 2011 minutes, Item, 7.1.2.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Eyelevel Gallery Open Projects in Point Pleasant
- 9.2 Canteen

Item 9.1 was moved to top of the agenda.

The agenda was accepted as amended.

9.1 Eyelevel gallery Open Projects in Point Pleasant Park – Ms. Siobhan Wiggins, Arts programmer, Community Relations and Cultural Affairs

Guest, Ms. Sarah Burwash, Eyelevel Gallery, submitted a document outlining the performance schedule and artists involved in the Summer Performance Art Series in the Park.

Eyelevel Gallery has chosen four artists from HRM to perform in the Park over the weekend of June 25 and 26.

Mr. Robert Apold entered the meeting at 4:45pm.

Discussion on publicizing the events followed:

- Ms. Burwash explained that the Eyelevel Gallery has a regular publicity program used to promote the various gallery offerings. These include ads in The Coast, C Magazine, Visual Arts News, as well as sending press releases to various media outlets and postering around the city.
- Ms. Olie suggested using social media to get the word out.
- Mr. Rice noted that his office would be the best place to send information for uploading to the Park website.
- Mr. Tilley asked that this information be placed on the website as soon as possible so that members could send the information out to their contacts.
- Ms. Olie suggested Where and Halifax Magazines as a means for publicity.
- Mr. Tilley suggested SNAP and MetroNews.
- Ms. Burwash invited members to the launch party on June 24, 2011. An artist has been commissioned to make a map of the Park with the performance locations.
- Ms. Wiggins noted that the schedule could change, but there will be three information booths set up in the Park, and a rain date is being considered and confirmed. All details will be listed on the Park website.
- Mr. Tilley suggested Ms. Burwash speak with local elementary schools to promote the performances, and offered his assistance in speaking with teachers.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES / STAFF UPDATES

5.1 Business Arising

5.1.1 Enforcement of By-law A-300 – Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership

A memorandum dated May 5, 2011 was before the Committee

Mr. Rice provided a verbal update to the committee on the enforcement of By-law A-300.

Mr. John Charles, Planner, Real Property Planning, attended the last Off-leash Parks Strategy Committee meeting and spoke to a number of members' concerns. He was requested to report back to the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee with the results of the Off-leash Parks Strategy Committee meeting, which was recently held.

On Mr. Charles' behalf, Mr. Rice submitted a detailed review of irresponsible dog owner complaints in three off-leash parks: Shubie, Seaview and Point Pleasant.

Mr. Rice confirmed that the registered complaints are received through the HRM 490-4000 call centre system. He noted that the issue appears to be specific to enforcement and assured the Committee that staff will increase enforcement at all three parks. He suggested an awareness blitz could work to make people aware of the by-law. Currently, they are under-resourced to provide enough staff regularly to enforce.

Mr. Tilley said he monitored dog statistics in 2007-2008 and noted that there are certain times of the day that one might see off-leash and uncontrolled dogs in on-leash areas. Complainants are less likely to call the 4000 number because they do not know about the number and they do not think anything will result from the complaint.

Mr. Awalt agreed with Mr. Tilley that the perception is that the Park is a dog park as there are few areas where leashes are required.

Mr. Phelan suggested that the Advisory Committee place an advertisement in the Chronicle Herald to raise awareness.

Ms. Olie noted that the Committee members have access to information cards to hand out to dog owners in the Park.

A discussion followed about off-leash boundaries in the park. The Park website has a map of on-leash and off-leash areas, www.pointpleasantpark.ca.

Action Item to Staff:

- 1) Ensure the Complaint number, 490-4000, is clearly listed at all three main entrances
- 2) Continue to follow this issue through enforcement
- 3) Encourage volunteers to raise awareness of by-law A-300

5.1.2 2011 Work Plan

Mr. Vodicka provided a verbal update to the Committee on the 2011 Work Plan. He agreed to send a list of all Work Plan activities to the Clerk's Office for distribution to committee members.

The following points were raised during discussion of the Park work plan:

- Regarding completion of work on the Cambridge Battery, Mr. Vodicka explained the difficulties completing was due to the weather, but suspects it to be finished within a month.
- Regarding the impact on Shakespeare by the Sea (SBTS), Mr. Phelan confirmed that they plan to renovate their building to do indoor performances. SBTS is regarded as a positive element in the Park but money has to be put into the building to bring it up to fire code.
- Mr. Tilley commented on the lack of communications around the tree culling. He also suggested cutting away at the Northwest Battery to see the cannons better.
- Mr. Vodicka suggested a V-notch could be a tripping hazard, but they are currently on sleepers.
- Mr. Tilley pointed out that the fencing around Point Pleasant Battery is a concern and suggested increased patrols would help.
- Mr. Vodicka agreed it is a safety issue and suggested that it is HRM's responsibility to build awareness of the safety issue. The feasibility study will provide more insight.

5.1.3 Volunteers in the Park

Item 5.1.3 was deferred to the next meeting.

5.2 Staff Updates

5.2.1 Proposed Memorial Plaque Addition

Mr. Rice submitted a document on a new plaque for Sailor's Memorial Way to be installed by the federal government. The Committee was requested to choose one of three options for presentation of the information. The Committee recommended an interpretive placard option. The placard will be installed sometime this summer.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – None

8. REPORTS - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Eyelevel gallery Open Projects in Point Pleasant Park – Ms. Siobhan Wiggans, Arts programmer, Community Relations and Cultural Affairs

This Item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

9.2 Canteen

Mr. Rice provided an update on the canteen RFP process. The process closes May 22, 2011 and staff hoped to have someone start June 1st 2011 and assume a 3-year lease. The core season is June 1st to Labour Day.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 9, 2011

Vice Chair requested the following items be added to the next meeting agenda:

- 1) Bicycle use safety
- 2) Emergency notification / evacuation plan
- 3) Provide new members with comprehensive plan. Perhaps ask past members to give their copies back to the committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Pamela Lovelace
Legislative Support