

**PENINSULA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 5, 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck, Vice-Chair
Councillor Dawn Sloane
Councillor Patrick Murphy

STAFF: Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 5, 2007

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the minutes of February 5, 2007, be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet

4.1.1 Public Participation - Idling Metro Transit Buses

C An email containing the Metro Transit's Bus Anti-Idling Policy from Lori Patterson, Manager, Public Affairs, was before Community Council.

This item will be deleted from the status sheet.

4.1.2 Correspondence - Street Drainage Problem Near West End Mall

C A memorandum dated February 19, 2007 was before Community Council.

The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant prepare a written response to Mr. Alan Ruffman, outlining the information forwarded by staff. She requested that the contact information for the owner of the subject property be included in the letter.

This item will be removed from the status sheet.

4.1.3 Public Participation - Halifax Commons Task Force

Councillor Sloane indicated that this matter will be dealt with at Regional Council on March 6, 2007. This item will be removed from the status sheet.

4.1.4 Presentation re: Noisy Vehicles in Halifax

This item will be removed from the status sheet.

4.1.5 Mitchell's Enviro Depot update

Councillor Sloane updated Community Council on this matter, noting that "For Sale" signs will be posted on the property within the next week, the fence at the back of the property has been repaired, and there are a number of potential purchasers interested in the property.

This item to remain on the status sheet until the property transaction has closed.

4.1.6 Closure of HRM Private Lane - June Street to Princess Place

No information received. This item will remain on the status sheet.

4.1.7 CN Property Maintenance

No information received. This item will remain on the status sheet.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - None

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION - None

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

8. HEARINGS

8.1 Public Hearings - None

8.2 Appeal Hearings - None

9. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

9.1 Correspondence - None

9.2 Petitions - None

9.3 Presentations

9.3.1 Presentation by The Friends of the Public Gardens

C An outline of the presentation by the Friends of the Public Gardens is on file.

Dr. Colin Stoddard, a member of The Friends of the Public Gardens, addressed Community Council, noting the following:

C The Friends of the Public Gardens (“The Friends”) are a non-profit group with 88 members and a Board of Directors with 14 members;

C The Friends commend HRM Council and staff on taking action with Phases 1 (clean up and infrastructure development) and Phase 2 (Horticultural Hall renovations and public washrooms construction) to restore the Public Gardens;

C The Friends believe that Phase 3 (the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Public Gardens) is critical to restoring and ensuring the long-term health of the Gardens;

C Over the last 30 to 40 years, as the City has altered the way in which the Gardens is managed, The Friends believe that the governors and managers have lost two key things:

C The central horticultural purpose that drove the Gardens’ development; and

C The human resources and organizational structure necessary for creating a spirited and exciting horticultural experience.

C The Friends believe that it is critical to retrieve and reanimate the horticultural purpose and program and to restore the human resources and organizational structure required to achieve that purpose;

C The Friends recognize that the completion of the management plan is no small job requiring a range of competence, but we are keen to see it completed as soon as possible so that the real work of revitalizing the Gardens can begin;

C The Friends have enquired about the capital funds for Phase 3 that were allocated in the 2006 Budget, but were not spent;

C Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, has confirmed that the funds will be carried over into the 2007 Budget;

C The Friends are relieved to know that the funding will not be lost, and strongly urge HRM to place a high priority on Phase 3 so it will be completed in 2007;

C The Friends were pleased to be consulted by HRM staff during the initial planning for Phase 3, and look forward to working with staff on this important project;

C The Friends expect to have the revised publication on the Gardens for sale in late spring 2007;

C The Friends received a bequest of over \$100,000 from the estate of Margaret Jarvis, in memory of her father, Tom Wallace. This bequest is to be dedicated toward a capital project in the Public Gardens;

C The Friends wish to work with the appropriate HRM staff to develop a plan for these funds.

The Chair noted that she is looking forward to the revised publication on the Gardens.

Councillor Sloane thanked The Friends for all they have done for the Gardens in the past and into the future. Councillor Sloane inquired whether there was any specific request for the \$100,000 bequest, such as a statue or a fountain. Dr. Stoddard clarified that the request was for a project in memory of Ms. Jarvis' father, Tom Wallace. He noted that research is underway to determine any connection Mr. Wallace had with the Gardens, and indicated that any research HRM staff may have on Mr. Wallace would be much appreciated.

MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that Peninsula Community Council refer this presentation to staff for an information report to be brought forward to Regional Council, including an update on Horticultural Hall and the public washrooms. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Murphy inquired what could be done to restore the two key things lost in the management of the Gardens, as outlined by the Friends. Dr. Stoddard indicated that it is the impression of The Friends that more staff is needed to be dedicated specifically to the Gardens, especially a Horticulturalist. He indicated that labels for the plants and trees are important to have and are required. Dr. Stoddard also indicated that keeping the ducks under control is also a problem. He noted that the population needs to be managed and increased enforcement of people not feeding the ducks is required.

Deputy Mayor Uteck inquired what other funding opportunities are available for the Gardens, in which the public can participate, such as making a donating to name a tree or plant in honour of a loved one. Dr. Stoddard indicated that he does not have information on funding opportunities for the Gardens. Deputy Mayor Uteck requested that additional funding opportunities be included in the information report.

Councillor Sloane indicated that part of Phase 3 is to look at replacing and adding benches, and looking at volunteer opportunities to do work in the Gardens. She noted that some trees have become old and diseased and need to be replaced. Councillor Sloane also suggested that more enforcement of keeping people off the grass, except for the children's play area, is required.

Councillor Murphy suggested looking to businesses with horticultural knowledge to volunteer time in the Gardens, such as staff from Halifax Seed. He also suggested partnering with the School Board to develop a children's garden.

Dr. Stoddard also noted that signage indicating that children should play in the children's area is required.

10. REPORTS

- 10.1 **Staff Reports** - None
- 10.2 **District 12 PAC Reports** - None
- 11. **MOTIONS** - None
- 12. **ADDED ITEMS** - None
- 13. **NOTICES OF MOTION** - None
- 14. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None
- 15. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Peninsula Community Council will be held on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant