

August 11, 1949.

FORT NEEDHAM PARK

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To His Worship the Mayor and
Members of the City Council.

Re: Improvements to Fort Needham and
Establishment of Fort Needham Memorial Park.

Gentlemen:-

For some time negotiations between the City and Halifax Relief Commission relating to the establishment of a public Memorial Park on Fort Needham have been in progress.

Under date of July 30th the Commission, through its solicitor, Mr. R. T. Donald, advised the Mayor that insofar as the taking over by the City of the western slope of Fort Needham is concerned, the Commission has found that this portion can be dealt with by the Commission itself without assistance from the City.

The situation, therefore, now appears to be that -

- (1) The Commission will convert the entire property into a Public Memorial Park and will make such expenditures as it may consider necessary to improve the appearance of the property, including the western slope. All such expenditures required to be made for the purpose of creating the park will be borne by the Commission.
- (2) Upon completion of the work by the Commission the City would take over the future care and maintenance of the property and continue it in use as a Public Memorial Park for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Halifax as a Public Park forever and for no other purpose whatsoever.
- (3) That legislation be sought by the City at the next session of the Legislature for the purpose of declaring the property in question to be a Public Park for the use and enjoyment of the citizens of Halifax forever and to be used for no other purpose whatsoever.
- (4) That the same legislation should provide for the expenditure of City funds upon the future maintenance and care of the Park.
- (5) The City Solicitor should be authorized to prepare an agreement embodying the above terms and the Mayor and City Clerk authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City when the same is completed.

This report has been prepared by me at the request of His Worship the Mayor in order to enable work on the project to be commenced without further delay.

Yours very truly,

Carl P. Bethune,
CITY SOLICITOR.

His Worship the Mayor: "Your Committee left it with the Commission that they would make plans and report as to how much would be needed. The Committee since that time, through its

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Chairman, Mr. Beazley, says they are willing to bear all the cost. The City will not be called upon to pay anything."

Alderman Kitz: "We have not been given any information as to what extent the Relief Commission is going to spend funds. They have collected their funds through the limited taxation they have paid to the City. Their money is unpaid taxes to the City of Halifax. I would be very interested to know what part of their accumulated funds is going to be spent for that purpose. I would like to know the present pension scheme. It is lamentably small. I would like to have further information. I would like to have the matter stand until such time as we can find out how their funds are going to be spent."

His Worship the Mayor: "The funds of the Relief Commission; we are mixing up the issue. The funds they have now is through the operation of a fund that had to be created through a very unfortunate accident in the City of Halifax. I think every member of the Council should realize something should be spent for the benefit of providing that spot with a memorial for those people who gave their lives in 1917. I don't think we can get anywhere by holding it up."

Alderman Walker: "They could do something better as regards spending the money. It should have come to the City and spent for people who are going to be put out of their houses. We have some families being evicted and it is up to the City to donate this land to a contractor who will put up houses for \$35.00 a month".

His Worship the Mayor: "This is something for the benefit of the North End of the City of Halifax. Give me the supporting motion and let us get on with the job".

Alderman Burgess: "This \$100,000.00 belongs to the Relief Commission and if they are going to spend it we can't refuse it".

Moved by Alderman Burgess, seconded by Alderman DeWolf that the report be approved.

Alderman DeWolf: "The Relief Commission is definitely settled on this as a Memorial. Ottawa concurred very favorably in the establish-

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ment of the Memorial. With respect to the remainder of the funds we can discuss that with them."

The motion was put and passed 9 voting for the same and 2 against it as follows:

FOR THE MOTION

Alderman DeWolf
Moriarty
Breen
Abbott
Adams
MacDonald
Redmond
Burgess
Vaughan

AGAINST IT

Alderman Kitz
Walker