



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 18, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Craig Walkington, Chair
Ms. Pat Jessup, Vice Chair
Mr. Barry Cahill
Mr. David Sutherland
Mr. William Robinson-Mushkat

REGRETS: Ms. Renee Gruszecki
Mr. Dan O'Brien
Ms. Marilyn Elliott

STAFF: Mr. Lindell Smith, Councillor District 8 – Peninsula North
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
Mr. Michael Lannon, Legislative Support, 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/170118heaac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm at the Nova Scotia Community College – IT Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax.

He noted that Marilyn Elliott was unable to attend, but is listening in to the meeting via telephone.

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee.

Barry Cahill nominated Pat Jessup for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by David Sutherland.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations, there being none, Pat Jessup was declared Vice Chair of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee.

The Vice Chair called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee.

Will Robinson-Mushkat nominated Craig Walkington for the position of Chair, seconded by Barry Cahill.

The Vice Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Craig Walkington was declared Chair of the Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Special Advisory Committee.

Craig Walkington resumed as Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 14, 2016

Pat Jessup noted that her name was misspelled on page 2.

MOVED by Barry Cahill, seconded by Pat Jessup

THAT the minutes of December 14, 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 is deferred to the regular meeting in February in the absence of Culture & Events staff.

Additions:

- 10.1 Correspondence from Sheila Allard
- 10.2 Correspondence from J K Stubbett

MOVED by Barry Cahill, seconded by Will Robinson-Mushkat

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

In regard to item 7.1.5 from the December 14, 2017 minutes, the Chair requested an update on Irving's participation in the anniversary commemoration.

Carolle Roberts, Landscape Architect, had no updates on this matter, but will speak with staff for an update at the next meeting.

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 Marcia R. Seitz-Ehler, Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Consulate General – Halifax, dated December 14, 2016

Correspondence received.

The Committee was made aware that the Legislative Assistant had forwarded the correspondence to Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Culture & Events. Ms. Taylor plans to get in touch with the U.S. Consulate.

7.1.2 From Peta Jane Temple to Wendy Robicheau dated December 15, 2016

Correspondence received.

7.1.3 From Jennifer Vincent dated December 20, 2016

Correspondence received.

Ms. Vincent asked in her correspondence if the event would be streamed live online in which the Chair deferred this question to the events planning staff to determine if this is a possibility. Committee members agreed that broadcasting the event live is a good idea and should be pursued.

The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to forward this request to staff and to respond to Jennifer Vincent advising that her suggestion is being considered.

7.1.4 From Ruth Terrones dated January 9, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee indicated that the initial question arising from this correspondence spoke to a larger question of inviting family members and survivors to the event. The context of this piece of correspondence will be discussed later in the meeting

David Sutherland was very intrigued by the letter, and advised that he located Ruth Terrones family's Halifax Relief Commission file number and offered to further investigate in effort that it may provide additional details for Ms. Terrones family. Mr. Sutherland asked the Legislative Assistant to put him in contact with Ms. Terrones.

7.1.5 From Sheila Allard dated January 13, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Chair indicated that the piece of correspondence speaks to the larger question of who are the official dignitaries and other people who should be invited to the ceremony.

7.1.6 From J K Stubbert dated January 16, 2017

Correspondence received.

The context of this piece of correspondence is outside the Committee's mandate. The Chair requested that the correspondence be forwarded to the Bridge Commission for their consideration, and that J K Stubbert be advised of this action.

A member of the public in attendance was invited to address the Committee. She advised that she has 150 family members from out of town planning to attend the anniversary commemoration. She explained that finding hotel rooms was challenging because many hotels are already booked to capacity for this event.

The Chair indicated that questions concerning accommodations is not within the mandate of this Committee, however, the staff may be able to place a message on the website encouraging those planning to attend from out of town to book their accommodations early. The Legislative Assistant will look into this.

7.2 Petitions - NONE

7.3 Presentation - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, offered to provide an update on the Fort Needham Memorial Park Master Plan progress, noting that they are still on target to put the tender out for advertising in February 2017.

Ms. Koziak-Roberts requested to make a presentation on the interpretive elements component of the project at the February meeting, to gain feedback from the Committee. She indicated that she will attempt to provide the necessary requirements two weeks before the February meeting.

Responding to questions from the Committee regarding the importance of staying on schedule so that the project is ready in time for December Ms. Koziak-Roberts suggested that they are aiming for the tender to go out in February 2017 with advertising lasting a minimum of three weeks and that the tender offer would ideally be completed for the end of March 2017. She explained that due to the offer exceeding \$500,000 it must go to Regional Council for approval. Ms. Roberts also indicated that once the offer is awarded that the company should have an early spring start to commence construction with a substantial completion date of August 31, 2017. She acknowledged the importance of completing the project on time and ready by November.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Feedback from December 2016 Halifax Explosion Memorial Service at Fort Needham Memorial Park

This matter was deferred to the February 2017 meeting to allow for staff to be present.

9.2.2 Planning for Needham Memorial Bell Tower Time Capsule #2

The Chair noted that Kellie MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, is the lead staff person on this matter and is not present at this time. The Chair indicated to Committee members that they were provided with a summary document of motions coming out of the January 7th time capsule workshop meeting. The Chair also indicated that the Committee would try to align itself with the timeline Kellie MacIvor provided, and stressed the importance of collecting the artifacts for preservation work by September 2017.

The Committee held a brief discussion regarding the time capsule, and agreed that this discussion be carried on at the March 2017 meeting with Kellie MacIvor present.

Will Robinson-Mushkat recommended that a discussion surrounding a digital and/or virtual time capsule also be held at the March meeting. The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to ask Kellie MacIvor to research and brief the Committee of her findings in relation to creating a digital and/or virtual time capsule at the March meeting.

Kellie MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, joined the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

She advised that she will be considering the possibilities brought forward by the committee and will investigate further. Ms. MacIvor explained the process of accession and that the most likely agent for accession will be the Nova Scotia Archives.

Kellie MacIvor indicated that at the next meeting she can bring forward information pertaining to the committee's request for a larger time capsule. Ms. MacIvor indicated that the 1985 time capsule has been removed from the bell tower and is in the care of the Nova Scotia Archives for safe keeping during work to the bell tower. She confirmed that the time capsule has not been opened or accessioned.

9.2.3 Discussion re: Call for Living Halifax Explosion Survivors

The Committee discussed how to determine how many living Halifax Explosion survivors there are, who they are and where they live. The Chair indicated that to his knowledge there has never been a registry of living survivors. The following suggestions were made with relation to this initiative:

- That a press release may be one way in which to reach out to those survivors.
- That the 100 Years, 100 Stories website could be used as an aid for calling upon survivors.

The Committee held a discussion on how the term "survivor" should be used and applied, with the following points made:

- A "survivor" should be anyone living in Halifax-Dartmouth in December 1917.
- The term "resident" may be more appropriate, although this may exclude military personnel living in Halifax/Dartmouth at the time as they would not have been classified as residents.
- The term "survivor" indicates an individual affected by something.
- Having too narrow a definition of "survivor" may exclude those that were affected generationally, such as the Terrones family discussed in the item 7.1.4 correspondence.

The Chair suggested that once survivors and possibly descendants of survivors are identified, special recognition as part of the ceremony should be determined.

The Legislative Assistant will liaise with Corporate Communications on this matter to determine options and suggestions for a call for survivors.

10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 3-5pm, Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council Space, Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Michael Lannon
Legislative Support