



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 2, 2017**

PRESENT: Ms. Paula Minnikin, Chair
Ms. Ann Boswick, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Ms. Karen Ross
Ms. Colleen Paschal
Ms. Krista Daley
Mr. Michael Gerrior
Ms. Chelsea Crouse
Mr. Patrick Larter

REGRETS: Ms. Dawn Vickers
Ms. Janice Wentzell

STAFF: Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Mr. Mike Gillett, Senior Civic Events Coordinator
Ms. Phoebe Rai, 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/pppac/170302pppac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax.

1.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Boswick, seconded by Ms. Ross

THAT Paula Minnikin be nominated Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations, there being none, Paula Minnikin was declared Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

The Chair then called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Ms. Ross

THAT Ann Boswick be nominated Vice Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations, there being none, Ann Boswick was declared Vice Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Minnikin

THAT the minutes of January 5, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as presented. The Committee agreed to consider items 9.1.1 and 9.2.1 first on the agenda. Please see pages 3 to 5 for details.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – January 5, 2017

6.1 Unauthorized Removal of Vegetation from Point Pleasant Park

The following was before the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee:

- A Request for Consideration form submitted by Tim Boudreau, with attached draft “No Not Pick the Plants” handout

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Ms. Ross

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report to consider the creation and implementation of a public awareness campaign regarding the unauthorized removal of vegetation from Point Pleasant Park including the installation of “Do Not Pick the Plants” signs as well as print and online advertising. It is further recommended that the report consider how the by-laws governing this matter can be enforced.

The Chair briefed the Committee on the issue noting that on numerous occasions individuals had been spotted in the park uprooting vegetation. The Committee’s primary concerns related to the unauthorized uprooting of vegetation at Point Pleasant Park are:

- The continued beautification of the park and;
- The disturbance of ecosystems within the park because of the uprooting vegetation

The Chair noted that it had been suggested previously that an awareness campaign be designed and implemented to bring awareness to the public about this issue and to inform the public of the appropriate by-laws governing the unauthorized uprooting of vegetation within Point Pleasant Park. The Chair noted that she had suggested the theme of “Leave Nothing, Take Nothing” for the awareness campaign.

Ms. Boswick suggested that the motion be amended to add “and any other form of advertising and public awareness recommended by staff.” This was accepted as a friendly amendment. The motion now reads:

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council request a staff report to consider the creation and implementation of a public awareness campaign regarding the unauthorized removal of vegetation from Point Pleasant Park including the installation of “Do Not Pick the Plants” signs as well as print and online advertising and any other form of advertising and public awareness recommended by staff. It is further recommended that the report consider how the by-laws governing this matter can be enforced.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 From Edith Hicks, dated February 2, 2017

Correspondence received.

Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, noted that a shilling was received through the Office of the Municipal Clerk from a Ms. Edith Hicks which upon the Committee’s consideration may be recommended for use during the official shilling ceremony. The Chair noted that there already exists a shilling which had been extensively used in the past for the shilling ceremony. The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant correspond with Ms. Hicks and provide her with acknowledgement and that an official invitation to the event be provided to her.

The Vice Chair expressed concern about the possibility of receiving more shillings than needed from members of the public and that this discussion should be expanded upon at the next Committee meeting.

7.2 Petitions - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Advisory Committee Orientation

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, reviewed with Committee members the contents of the welcome package which was forwarded to all Committee members prior to the scheduled meeting. Topics covered included: Administrative Order One; the agenda process; committee procedures; the public appointment policy; respecting diversity and; consecutive absenteeism from Committee meetings.

In addition, the Legislative Assistant provided an overview to Committee members of the roles and responsibilities of the: Chair; Vice Chair; Committee; Committee members and; Halifax Regional Municipality staff.

9.1.2 Update from Mr. Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks

Mr. Rice provided updates to the Committee regarding the beautification of the park. Mr. Rice noted that:

- Maintenance staff, in accordance with the park's forestry plan, would be removing only the debris from Hurricane Juan and deceased plantation in the park that poses a public safety risk
- The Point Pleasant Park website would be getting redesigned within the coming months in effort to provide a more user friendly experience
- The motion to allow bicycle riding in the park during weekends had been discussed and a public opinion survey had been put into place; pending the results of the survey Parks and Recreation will consider its options related to the motion

The Chair suggested that staff consider permitting young children to bike even in areas where adults are prohibited from doing so. She noted that the reason for restricting bicycle access is primarily related to speed, and since small children are no faster than carriages perhaps should be treated differently than other cyclists. The Legislative Assistant agreed to send the suggestion to staff for consideration of inclusion in the forthcoming report.

Mr. Rice then provided updates to the Committee on capitol projects taking place within the park. Mr. Rice noted that:

- The Halifax Water Sewer Replacement Project will have some impact on the park as Point Pleasant Park is the lowest point of land from the memorial way pumping station; the pumping area will be busy for about 2-3 weeks with no clear indication as to when construction will commence. A communications plan will be designed and delivered to the public prior to any major replacement project disruptions to the park
- The lower parking lot would be getting upgrades and be envisioned as the entrance to the harbor; a completion date for the project has been estimated for the end of fall 2017

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Shilling Ceremony

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Mike Gillett, Senior Civic Events Coordinator provided an overview of the shilling ceremony process to Committee members.

The Chair noted that the Vice Chair had been tasked to work towards structuring the shilling ceremony. The Vice Chair noted that she had contacted the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and the Mayor's Office with a tentative date of May 28, 2017, although she is currently exploring alternative dates. The Vice Chair noted that the Committee felt that pursuing a ceremony date in the spring would be best as the Committee believed that holding a spring shilling ceremony would provide an earlier opportunity to attract park users.

The Vice Chair further noted the following:

- she had sent inquiries in effort to secure pipe and drums for the ceremony;
- the exact location of the ceremony was up for discussion and that tents or alternative venue options should be considered in case of bad weather; and
- alternative date to hold the ceremony should be discussed upon in case there is an extreme weather event.

The Vice Chair suggested that as part of the ceremony token shillings could be distributed to attendees and dignitaries as a commemorative component to the ceremony. The Vice Chair noted that she was interested in furthering this discussion with all Committee members at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Gillett confirmed with the Committee that municipal staff would be able to aid when setting up for the ceremony, sound equipment, lighting etc.

The Chair noted that the Aboriginal Community should be officially acknowledged during the shilling ceremony; Ms. Karen Ross noted that she would reach out to her contacts within the Aboriginal Community and would report back to the next meeting.

9.2.2 Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-law Review

There was no update regarding Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-law Review

9.2.3 Communications

There was no update regarding Communications

9.2.4 Yearly Priorities

The Chair requested that Committee members contact her with information regarding their priorities for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 4, 2017, @ 4:30pm, Office and Maintenance Building, Point Pleasant Park, Halifax

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Michael Lannon
Legislative Support