



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 16, 2017**

PRESENT: Craig Walkington, Chair
Barry Cahill
David Sutherland
William Robinson-Mushkat
Dan O'Brien
Renee Gruszecki

REGRETS: Pat Jessup, Vice Chair
Marilyn Elliott

STAFF: Kellie MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, Parks and Recreation
Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, Parks and Recreation
Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants and Special Projects
Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
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/170316heaac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm. and the Committee adjourned at 5:04 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.

The Chair noted that Marilyn Elliott was listening to the meeting via teleconference.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Will Robinson-Mushkat, seconded by Dan O'Brien

THAT the minutes of February 15, 2017 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Barry Cahill, seconded by Will Robinson-Mushkat

THAT the minutes of February 23, 2017 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 7.1.6 Correspondence from Donald J. Adams
- 7.1.7 Correspondence from Scott J. Burke
- 7.1.8 Correspondence from Chris Dyer, Sales Manager
- 7.1.9 Correspondence (updated) from Larry Scrim
- 7.1.10 Correspondence from Laura H. Jenkins
- 7.1.11 Correspondence from Linda Campbell and John McDermott

MOVED by Renee Gruszecki, seconded by Barry Cahill

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Chair noted that he had spoken with Elizabeth Taylor, Manager of Culture & Events, about an upcoming meeting between herself and representatives of Irving Shipyard and was made aware of a scheduled meeting between the two parties to be held on March 17, 2017.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Discussion Re: Call for Living Halifax Explosion Survivors

The Chair noted that he had received an email from Elizabeth Taylor indicating that a call for living survivors would be placed on HRM's website in the coming weeks. Ms. Taylor also asked the Committee within the email how the call for survivors should read.

The Committee noted that an appropriate call for survivors should be open and inclusive and include: their residence during the event; their age and full name during the time of the event; a section that allows them to tell their story and; their contact information. The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the call to survivors and acknowledged that the call could be beneficial to the Committee as a learning tool as well.

The Committee also noted that given the potential ages of survivors it would be advantageous to consider those who may have limited mobility and make any necessary accommodations in advanced of their arrival to the event.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 From Joe Isenor dated February 25, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, advising that HRM is currently working on developing a process for a call for living survivors, and will be in touch once this is completed for further information.

7.1.2 From Ken Isles dated March 1, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, advising that HRM is currently working on developing a process for a call for living survivors, and will be in touch once this is completed for further information.

7.1.3 From Kathie D. NeuOrgan dated March 3, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and thanks for the information.

7.1.4 From Suzanne Quesnel dated March 4, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, to acknowledge their input and advise that it will be taken under consideration.

7.1.5 From Larry Scrim dated March 4, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, advising that HRM is currently working on developing a process for a call for living survivors, and will be in touch once this is completed for further information.

7.1.6 From Donald J. Adams dated March 10, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond acknowledging the information and encouraging Mr. Adams to submit the information through the 100years100stories.ca website.

7.1.7 From Scott J. Burke dated March 13, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond, to acknowledge their input and advise that it will be taken under consideration.

7.1.8 From Chris Dyer, Sales Manager, Hampton Inn by Hilton & Homewood Suites by Hilton Halifax-Downtown, dated March 13, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Chair noted that Ms. Taylor had already responded to this piece of correspondence.

7.1.9 From Larry Scrim dated March 14, 2017

Correspondence received.

7.1.10 From Laura H. Jenkins, Manager of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Relations, Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University, dated March 14, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond to acknowledge the email and advise that this is not something the Committee can participate in. Also to encourage Ms. Jenkins to get in contact with the Dalhousie Art Gallery as there may be opportunities for collaboration.

7.1.11 From Linda Campbell and Jim McDermott dated March 15, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Chair noted that the context of this piece of correspondence was related to an offer to include a documentary film into the time capsule and requested that this matter be further discussed during the virtual time capsule discussion. Due to time restraints, the virtual time capsule discussion was deferred to the next regular scheduled meeting and therefore a response will follow after the matter has been discussed.

7.2 Petitions - NONE

7.3 Presentation - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF - None

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Planning for Needham Memorial Bell Tower Time Capsule #2 and Discussion of a Virtual Time Capsule

The following information was before the Committee:

- Time Capsule Update Memo from staff dated March 15, 2017
- Library of Congress, “The Signal” Digital Time Capsules article by Leslie Johnston dated July 7, 2011.

Kellie MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, briefed the Committee that the Municipality is in agreement that time capsule #1 will not be reinstated and is currently in the possession of the Nova Scotia Archives. Additionally, Ms. MacIvor credited the Committee with development of a vision statement as the parameters for placing any artifact in time capsule #2. The Chair also noted that Alec McCleave had placed a request indicating that he would like to be present during the opening of time capsule #1 along with Janet Kitz. Ms. MacIvor noted that the request would be finalized at the same time other invitations would be delivered for the opening of time capsule #1.

Ms. MacIvor noted that the plan for the potential display of the contents of time capsule #1 would be in the form of a virtual display. Ms. MacIvor also noted the Municipality would take the Committee’s recommendation of continuing the 50-year period of opening time capsule #2 under advisement and would be part of the event scheduled for December 2067. The Chair noted that the impression was that this matter had already been finalized; Ms. MacIvor noted she would confirm this with the Committee at a later date.

Ms. MacIvor noted that scheduling is on track for time capsule #2 and finalization would occur in April 2017. The Chair noted safety concerns related to the discussion surrounding a plaque that would indicate the presence of time capsule #2. Ms. MacIvor noted that as part of preserving the contents digitally, of time capsule #2, Nova Scotia archives would scan all the items prior to time capsule #2 being placed into the ground.

Ms. MacIvor noted that the Municipality would take under consideration the proposal of a permanent display for the original contents of time capsule #1 once quality assurance of the items could be insured.

The Committee reviewed the potential time capsule items outlined in the Time Capsule Update Memo item by item:

1) Commemorative Coin

Ms. MacIvor noted that a commemorative gold coin had been purchased by the archives from the mint for the collection. The Committee believed that the coin that is placed into time capsule #2 would be directly related to the event. Ms. MacIvor noted security concerns with placing the coin inside time capsule #2 and recommended as an alternative that a description of the coin, its designer, and a photograph be placed into the time capsule instead and kept in the archives. The Committee noted that if there is a circulating coin commemorating the event that that coin be placed into time capsule #2.

2) Commemorative Stamp

The Committee noted that there has yet to be confirmation of a commemorative stamp for the event though Canada Post has been approached by the Mayors Office on this matter. The Committee noted that if there is indeed a commemorative stamp that that stamp be placed into time capsule #2.

3) George Elliott Clarke Poem

The Committee noted that the Mayor’s Office had contacted the Parliamentary Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke for a poetic submission. The Chair mentioned that the Halifax Poet Laureate, Rebecca Thomas, be contacted as well for a poetic submission as a follow up item for the next meeting.

4) Copies of the Official Letters to Her Majesty, The Prime Minister, The Premier, and the Mayor's Open Letter to Citizens

Ms. MacIvor indicated to the Committee that if the letters are returned copies would be made and placed into the time capsule. The Chair noted that given the significance of the commemorative ceremony there should not be a reason as to why those dignitaries could not be approached to provide a message to the event. Ms. MacIvor noted that she would return to the Committee at its next meeting with confirmation of protocol related to the soliciting of letters to said dignitaries by the municipality as well as the Committee.

5) Bibliography of Halifax Explosion Publications

The Committee noted that due to the limited size of the time capsule that the bibliography would take up ample space needed for other items. The Committee made the decision not to include this item in time capsule #2.

6) Paul Erikson's History of Fort Needham

Barry Cahill noted that he would contact Paul Erikson in effort to secure a copy of his novel.

7) Updated List of Fatalities Since 1985

Ms. MacIvor noted that the finalized list would not be completed until November 2017 at the earliest. The Committee was pleased with the scheduled timeline and accepted this item.

8) Catalogue of Contemporary Works of Art Specific to the 1917 Explosion

The Committee noted the challenges in validating the piece a piece of art from that time period in addition to the limited size constraints of the time capsule. As such the Committee made the decision to not to include this item into time capsule #2.

9) Catalogue of Projects Funded by the Explosion Grants Program

The Committee agreed to placing this list inside the time capsule.

10) 1917 Explosion Artifacts

The Committee noted the challenges in confirming the validity of an artifact directly linked to the Halifax Explosion. As such the Committee made the decision place this item on hold and review the Committees guiding principles in effort to align the items placed within the time capsule with them.

11) Maps and Plans of 1917 and 2017

The Committee noted that due to the limited size of the time capsule this item may be better suited for the digital time capsule. The Committee also noted the challenge in selecting an appropriate map to place into the time capsule. As such the Committee agreed to return to this item at the next regularly schedules Committee meeting.

12) Grocery Receipt from 2017, and Copies of the 1917 and 1985 Receipt

The Committee agreed to placing the receipt as a matter of tradition.

13) Local School Art Project

Mr. Peter Greechan, Community Developer, noted to the Committee that he would return at the next regularly scheduled meeting to update the Committee on the details and time frame of the local school art project.

14) Newspaper Articles Related to the 100th Anniversary Commemoration

The Committee noted the importance of placing news articles related to the commemorative ceremony in time capsule #2 though the Committee expressed some concern in respect to preserving the original news clipping(s). Ms. MacIvor noted that the news articles could always be preserved digitally and that the originals could be placed in the time capsule though there would be no guarantee of its quality in 50 years' time.

15) Local Restaurant Menu

Due to conflict of interests the Committee made the decision not to include a local restaurant menu in the time capsule.

16) Plans for Fort Needham Park Legacy Project

The Committee made the decision to include this item in the time capsule as it relates to the development and significance of Fort Needham Park. Barry Cahill noted he would draft something up related to this item.

17) Report to Council to Approve the Administrative Order for the 100th Anniversary Commemoration

The Committee noted the significance of the administrative order that provided the special advisory committee to formulate with a specific mandate related to the commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, noted that the Clerk's Office could likely provide a certified copy of the motion and staff report for the time capsule. As such the Committee agreed to placing this item in the time capsule.

18) List of HEASAC Members (Start to Finish)

The Committee agreed to placing this item into the time capsule. The Committee noted that the compiling of current and former Committee members be tasked to the Legislative Assistant.

19) A Map of Flora That Survived the Explosion

The Committee noted the extensive challenges to producing such a document as well as the limited capacity of the time capsule. As such the Committee made the decision to exclude this item from the time capsule.

20) Map of Areas Devastated and Damaged by the Explosion (Insurance Map)

Ms. Renee Gruszecki noted that the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic had displayed a collection of images related to the item though a follow up on this item would be reported back on at the next regularly scheduled meeting in April.

The Chair noted that at the next Committee meeting the revised list would be put up against the guiding principles in effort to confirm the relevance and significance of these items being placed in time capsule #2. The chair noted that the discussion on the digital/virtual time capsule be deferred to and placed onto the agenda of the next regular scheduled meeting.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 3-5pm, NSCC IT Campus, 5685
Leeds Street, Halifax

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Michael Lannon
Legislative Support