



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 17, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Walkington, Chair
Pat Jessup, Vice Chair
Marilyn Elliott
Barry Cahill
Dan O'Brien
David Sutherland

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Lindell Smith

REGRETS: William Robinson-Mushkat
Renee Gruszecki

STAFF: Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Culture and Events; HRM Parks and Recreation
Peter Greechan, Community Developer Grants and Contributions; HRM
Finance
Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer: HRM Parks and Recreation
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Sharon Chase, 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/170517heaac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm at Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council meeting space, Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2017

Marilyn Elliott noted that the motion last month should read “the term ‘definition of survivor’”

MOVED by Barry Cahill, seconded by Pat Jessup

THAT the minutes of April 19, 2017 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 7.1.4 Correspondence from Anne Louise Desrosiers dated May 16, 2017 (pdf)
- 7.1.5 Correspondence from Anne Louise Desrosiers dated May 16, 2017 (email)

MOVED by Marilyn Elliott, seconded by Dan O’Brien

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Update- Creation of Halifax Explosion Commemorative Coin

Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Culture and Events, is researching the production of commemorative coins as a token for special attendees at the memorial ceremony. The coins would cost approximately \$8-\$10 each, with a production run of 1000 coins. Staff are now looking into funding sources for the coin production.

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 Correspondence from Tony Duggan-Smith, dated April 23, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and suggest they contact Peter Dykhuis at the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Committee member Renee Gruszecki may also be interested in their project.

7.1.2 Correspondence from Kelsey Attard, dated April 25, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and suggest they contact Kim Reinhard at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic as they often host local book launches.

7.1.3 Correspondence from Douglas Brittain, dated May 7, 2017

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and thank them for their creative input and interest.

7.1.4 Correspondence from Anne Louise Desrosiers dated May 16, 2017 (pdf)

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and forward their suggestions to the appropriate civic events staff.

7.1.5 Correspondence from Anne Louise Desrosiers dated May 16, 2017 (email)

Correspondence received.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement and pass along their name to Kelly McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, who is building the guest list for the capsule opening.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Presentation from the Narratives in Space and Time Society (NiS+TS)

The following was before the Committee:

- Brochures from NiS+TS on Walking the Debris Field – At Turtle Grove and Towards Pier 6
- Presentation by NiS+TS

Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Culture and Events, introduced the members of Narratives in Space and Time Society to the Committee. They have been working over the past two years on various interdisciplinary creative research projects involving mobile media and walking. HRM had received \$450,000 from Canadian Heritage for the creation of a website and physical marker project. As the CBC was already working on a website, it was requested that Canadian Heritage allow a portion of this money be put towards Narratives' development of an App. The tender for the physical marker project has been awarded.

Mary Elizabeth Lucca played a short video followed by a presentation to share her group's work with the Committee. This non-profit group was created in 2012 with the project "Walking the Debris Field" getting underway in 2013. Using GPS, walking and art pieces they create an interactive public form of expression exploring various locations and subjects. These public art walks include storytelling, music, dance and art installations which allow the participants to be in the physical spaces and see and feel how the Halifax Explosion affected and shaped the area at the time and continues to the present day. The group acknowledged the support of many organizations and neighbourhoods in making these events a success. The walks are well attended with numbers reaching 100. Participants receive a memento which ties into

the theme of each walk. New walks are being researched and developed; most recently Turtle Cove and a nature walk highlighting the flora and fauna found both then and now. Other project highlights have been the Design and Build Free Lab's Psychogeographer's Table and the NSCAD symposium "Towards Explosion 2017- Perspectives on the Centenary of the Halifax Explosion"

The group then described their mobile software App and how it would be used to enhance both group and individual walks in Walking the Debris Field. They hope to have a companion website with extra information, stories and links and will run workshops for users of the App as it is launched. The goal is to have a soft launch of the App in July using beta testers from Dalhousie and have it ready for the public in September.

At the request of the Committee, the group clarified that the App will be free. The level of interest for these walks leading up to the centenary was discussed. The Committee was also interested to know if the walks would continue after 2017. Narratives have lots of ideas for future projects and walks and continue to collaborate with their many partners, for example they hope to publish an anthology reviewing this 4-year project. The Chair thanked the group for the presentation and asked how the Committee might be able to help. Mary Elizabeth concluded by inviting the Committee to attend their event at the Dalhousie Art Gallery in October.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Culture and Events, updated the Committee on the reception being planned. It will be held at St. Joseph MacKay School. The gym can accommodate 300-400. The site was chosen as it is close to Fort Needham. There will be involvement from the children including a display of their mosaic art project. The guest list is being generated and 750 invitations are being printed.

Committee members asked where the public can access event information as they have received many questions about scheduled events. Community events will be found at <https://100years100stories.ca> and a link will be placed on HRM's site to direct people there. HRM is hosting the Commemorative Event which is open to the public where 800-900 are expected to attend. There may be another city event at the library and Elizabeth will look into this further.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Continue Planning for Needham Memorial Bell Tower Time Capsule #2

The following was before the Committee:

- Time capsule Update memo dated May 17, 2017

As Renee Gruszecki is absent the Chair suggested that discussion of maps and the photo exhibit be deferred to the next meeting.

Peter Greechan, Community Developer, has been attempting to contact the school to secure a tile from their art project for the capsule.

Elizabeth Taylor, Manager Culture and Events, has been in contact with George Elliott Clarke who is working on a poem for inclusion. He indicated that he may also attend the event.

9.2.2 Continue Discussion of a Virtual Time Capsule

The Chair asked that further conversation be deferred to the next meeting as key committee members are absent.

10. ADDED ITEMS

Marilyn Elliott asked about who had responded so far to the Call for Survivors and whether they were local. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant updated that 14 living survivors had been identified to date, from across Canada and the United States. The Chair asked that the Legislative Assistant provide a periodic update of the number of respondents. Any further detail would not be given due to privacy guidelines.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that he is unavailable for the next scheduled meeting date. The Committee agreed to find another date. Alternative dates will be circulated by Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, to the Committee members for their consideration.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support