



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 24, 2017**

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

**REGRETS:** William Robinson-Mushkat

**STAFF:** Kellie MacIvor, Cultural Asset Manager; Parks, Recreation and Communities  
Billy Comer, Civic Events Coordinator; Parks, Recreation and Communities  
Andrew Cox, Senior Civic Events Coordinator; Parks, Recreation and Communities  
Peter Greechan, Community Develop; Grants and Contributions: Finance and Asset Management  
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, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Community College- IT Campus, 5685 Leeds Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2017**

It was noted under 9.1.2 on page 3 that the Halifax Explosion Commemorative Markers Project was a staff led initiative, and while the project was discussed with the Committee some months back, the Committee was not provided with the opportunity for input on the design.

MOVED by Marilyn Elliott, seconded by Pat Jessup

**THAT the minutes of September 20, 2017 be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

Addition:

7.1.3 Correspondence from Philip Doucette, dated October 23, 2017

MOVED by Renee Gruszecki, seconded by Pat Jessup

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE**

**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 Alan Farquhar, dated October 4, 2017**

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant respond with an acknowledgement informing them that the suggestion had been considered by the Committee but not pursued. A list of the identified dead from the city directory, dated 1918, had been placed in the 1985 time capsule and will also be included in this years' time capsule.

**7.1.2 from Leon Matthys dated October 10, 2017**

The Committee requested that this be forwarded to staff for consideration and that they respond to the proposal..

#### **7.1.3 from Philip Doucette, dated October 23, 2017**

The Committee requested that this be forwarded to staff for consideration and follow-up; noting their concerns about the potential environmental hazard posed by launching balloons.

#### **7.2 Petitions - none**

#### **7.3 Presentations- none**

### **8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

### **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

#### **9.1 STAFF**

##### **9.1.1 2017 Time Capsule Contents**

The following was before the Committee:

- 1985 Time Capsule Contents listing, dated September 21, 2017
- Updated Time Capsule Update Memo, dated October 25, 2017
- Halifax Explosion Comparative Photography Series Proposal

Kelly Mclvor, Cultural Asset Manager, shared the inventory of the 1985 time capsule asking the Committee to consider what might also be included in the 2017 time capsule.

Some additional ideas for inclusion in the 2017 time capsule were noted as follows:

- Current press cuttings from local sources
- A photo of the class/students involved in the tile project (permission would need to be sought)
- A complete coin set from 2017
- Canada 150 memorabilia may be appropriate
- A photo of the Committee and staff involved (a time and place to be determined)
- Programs from events supported by the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program

The Committee discussed an idea put forward through Marilyn Elliott of including a cell phone loaded with content related to the explosion. The Committee likened this to a digital time capsule. Kelly Mclvor noted that the Library of Congress suggests using a hard drive loaded with PDF's and TIFF's as the most versatile and lasting method. There were many suggestions of sources and content to be included. Staff will investigate and report back at the next meeting. It was also suggested that the Municipal Archives may be able to prepare a digital exhibit which could be displayed at City Hall.

This review generated a discussion by the Committee which noted that the African, Mi'kmaq and Dartmouth communities do not seem to be reflected in the time capsule contents. It was suggested that it may be best to approach leaders in these communities to ensure genuine inclusion. Some other suggestions included: Explosion Grants Program, Turtle Grove, Narratives in Space and Time, Africville Genealogy Society and Dartmouth Heritage Museum. It was agreed that the Committee would reach out with Dan O'Brien connecting with Africville Genealogy Society; Pat Jessup with the Mi'kmaq, looking to secure a copy of Alan Syliboy's painting of the Narrows, and Billy Comer will follow up with the Dartmouth

Heritage Museum, securing a copy of the Frank Baker Diary. Having Rebecca Thomas and George Elliot Clarke participating also ensures inclusion and diversity is reflected.

Renee Gruszecki summarized the Comparative Photography Series proposal. There are 18 locations to be re-captured by members of the Nova Scotia Photographers Guild. This could become a legacy project of the Halifax Explosion Memorial Time Capsules.

MOVED by Renee Gruszecki, seconded by Dan O'Brien

**THAT the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Advisory Committee endorse the Halifax Explosion Comparative Photography Series Proposal, as outlined at the October 24, 2017 meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Kelly McIvor provided update on contents for the 2017 Time Capsule:

- The Canadian Mint will not be producing a circulating coin.
- The Prime Minister and Premier's letters have been received.
- An updated list of fatalities will be provided in late November.
- Painted tile is being picked up.
- Marilyn Elliott is arranging for the copy of Shattered City to be signed by Janet Kitz.

The stainless steel capsule, 14x14x14, has arrived and fits the niche. It is being housed at the archives for safekeeping. All items should be collected by November 15<sup>th</sup> and the capsule will be sealed on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Renee Gruszecki suggested creating and including a future city book which would collect the citizen's ideas and best wishes for Halifax in the coming 50 years building on the Halifax Explosion's legacy of resilience and rebuilding. The Committee discussed how this could be done and whether it was relevant to the time capsule's intent of capturing a point in time. Although the idea of this social experiment was intriguing it was agreed that there was not time to further pursue this idea.

#### **9.1.2 Update - Commemorative Coin Design**

Kelly McIvor, Cultural Asset Manager, noted that the Commemorative Coins will arrive on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **9.1.3 Update - Canada Post Stamp**

There will be a ceremony at Government House on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. to unveil the commemorative stamp; invitations have been sent to Committee members. Committee members will receive a First Day Issue stamp and one will be provided for inclusion in the time capsule.

#### **9.1.4 Update – Number of Living Survivors Identified**

Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, shared that there have been 18 living survivors identified to date.

#### **9.1.5 Update – December 6, 2017 Memorial Service**

The following was before the Committee:

- Memorial Service staff presentation

Billy Comer, Civic Events Coordinator; Parks, Recreation and Communities, and Andrew Cox, Civic Events Coordinator; Parks, Recreation and Communities, reviewed the timeline for the memorial service. It was noted that there have been contingencies put in place as the event will be weather dependent. Most of the set-up will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for additional volunteers to circulate programs. Some invited attendees and speakers are still to be confirmed. Councillor Lindell Smith will participate as Emcee.

They reviewed the service details highlighting the following points:

- Unveiling of Historic Sites and Monuments plaque and speech
- Respecting the timing of the 9:04 moment of silence
- Keeping the program to 50 minutes overall
- Laying of the wreaths and protocol
- CBC will be live streaming the service
- Parking, drop off and street closure
- Reception at St. Joseph A. McKay school

The Committee acknowledged the tight timing of the ceremony and discussed the best ways to manage introductions and speakers to ensure the moment of silence is respected and occurs at exactly 9:04 am. The Chair confirmed the appropriate protocols in place depending on who is in attendance. Accommodations and acknowledgement for attending survivors were also reviewed.

The event sub-committee will be meeting this Thursday to finalize the program and will take the Committee's feedback into account. The various plans, speakers and order of events will be confirmed and presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

It was noted that Mayor Savage will also be attending two other HRM commemorative events that day: the ceremony at Fire Station #4 which follows this event and then the Dartmouth ceremony which is held at the cannon on Pinecrest and Albro Lake Road at 11:30 am. Kelly MacIvor updated the Committee on the Fort Needham Memorial Park site renovations and mentioned that Canadian Heritage have toured the site as well. All are pleased with the progress and confident things will be ready for December 6, 2017.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE**

### **9.2.1 Schedule to Conclude Committee and Final Reporting**

With regard to the conclusion of and final reporting by the Committee, Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, advised that the Administrative Order for the Committee outlines that following the anniversary the Committee would conclude its work and a final report would be submitted to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. The December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be an opportunity to provide feedback on the event and input to staff for inclusion in the final report.

Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants and Contributions, advised that Grants staff will also be preparing an evaluation report on the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program, in consultation with the Committee. The Chair would like to ensure the Committee wraps things up properly and takes the time to prepare their feedback and assessments including a review of the Committee's effectiveness.

## **10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 3-5pm, Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council space, main floor, Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support