



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 1, 2018**

PRESENT: Colleen Paschal, Acting Chair
Ian Austen
Denton Froese
John Price
Susan Summerby-Murray
Stephanie Gustys
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason

REGRETS: Krista Daley
Michael Gerrior

STAFF: Richard Harvey, Manager Policies and Planning-Parks and Recreation
Alana Tapper, Superintendent Parks West
Sharon Chase, Legislative Assistant, 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 at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm at Halifax Hall 2nd floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 6, 2018

MOVED by Susan Summerby-Murray, seconded by John Price

THAT the minutes of September 6, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

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- None

7.2 Petitions- None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Halifax Port Authority

Catherine McGrail, Associate VP Strategy and Innovation, provided a presentation to the Committee about the infrastructure plans at the container terminal. A copy of the presentation is on file. McGrail shared the plans for the extension of the terminal using a casson based structure that can be installed immediately and then removed and re-used in the future. This would allow for the docking of two Ultra Class vessels which will increase rail based growth and therefore reduce truck traffic. The rationale and opportunities for growth were reviewed, emphasizing the Port Authority's commitment to contribute to the quality of life for their neighbours and the city. They noted that this project focuses on a livable city and is in line with the Centre Plan and other HRM initiatives.

Michael Davie, VP Planning and Operations, confirmed that there would be no harm or impact on the Park. The extension would lengthen the terminal by 175 metres and that the project was designed to be the least disruptive, quick and environmentally friendly. The permanent solution will be needed by 2020 and will take more planning, with the business case being developed as the next phase. It was noted that the current walkway will be extended. Davie confirmed that all approvals and funding are in place. The Port Authority will ensure the Committee stays informed of progress along the way and that there will be no restrictions accessing the park from the project.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Operations and Forestry Management Plan Update

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 1, 2018

Alana Tapper, Superintendent Parks West, provided an Operations update. Seasonal staff have finished with remaining staff focusing on leaf and seasonal cleanup. Veteran's Affairs have been working on cleaning up the graffiti on the Sailor's Memorial. Tapper reviewed the guidelines for winter operations in the Park. These snow clearing guidelines take effect the 3rd week of November. A map of which trails will be cleared was shared. An update on the Forestry Management Plan was also reviewed which highlighted the projects that have been completed and 6 additional projects which have been identified and how they are prioritized. Data collection and mapping is ongoing with tenders going out in the spring for stand enhancement thinning. Steve, Alana and Crispin Wood, HRM's Urban Forrester, will bring a presentation to the Committee next year. A copy of the "do not pick the plants" signage was shared with the Committee. ICT and Alana are working on a recommendation report for Council regarding an App for the Park.

Tapper responded to questions about garbage can removal and composting/recycling, reminding members to contact 311 if they see any areas of concern. It was noted that the response to the graffiti incident was timely and cohesive with members of the community, veteran's affairs, parks and rec, and public works all making a concerted effort. There was a brief discussion about how crusher dust is used and other options that might be considered. Tapper confirmed that tree removal around the forts and other archeological sites will be later in the process and are not planned until after year 3.

9.1.2 Greenbank Building, Preliminary Discussion

Richard Harvey, Manager Policies and Planning-Parks and Recreation, provided an update on Council direction for the Greenbank Building. Harvey reviewed the background for this building as identified in the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan. It was to be developed as a multi-use building which would reflect the needs of the community and park users. They also shared the history of the building used by Shakespeare-by-the-Sea and discussions around its plans for a theatre space and potential partnerships. Staff are now considering the conceptual design and will plan and engage with the public. This exercise coincides with HRM's larger cultural use assessment. It is conceived as a centre for the Park with consultation and public engagement determining what will be included. Parks Canada will also be consulted.

Committee members discussed no longer having a transit stop at the lower entrance to the park, ridership data was considered when removing this stop. Narrow traffic lanes in the new parking lot were noted. Both items were things to consider ahead of any new building which would increase traffic to that area of the park. There may also be a future opportunity to look at having Parks Canada considering selling the Park to HRM.

The Committee were very interested in how they could support staff and be involved with public engagement initiatives. Harvey suggested members have a look at some conceptual images which are in the comprehensive plan. Some initial feedback from members included having an environmentally friendly, innovative, state of the art building. The idea of a restaurant was not appealing. It was also suggested that there may be an opportunity to have interpretive spaces in other locations, for example at Cope's Rock. The Committee felt that this was also a good opportunity to look at existing infrastructure: interpretive panels, signage in general, washrooms and play spaces. It was agreed that a needs analysis of how the park is used would help frame the consultation on a new building. It is a great opportunity to rejuvenate the park and bring back lots of different types of activity and visitors.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor Mason reminded everyone of the Remembrance Day Ceremony in the Park at the Sailor's War Memorial.

Ian Austen's term with the Committee has ended and he shared that he has enjoyed his time on the Committee and thanked everyone.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING- TBD

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Assistant