



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 10, 2019**

PRESENT: Ian Austen
Denton Froese
Susan Summerby-Murray
John Price
Brian MacDonald
Kelsey Redding
Daniel Flood
Councillor Wayne Mason

REGRETS: Colleen Paschal
Stephanie Gustys
Chidiebere Maduakolam

STAFF: Peter Andrews, Acting Deputy Chief of Operations, Halifax Regional Fire and
Emergency
Simon Ross-Siegel, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Simon Ross- Siegel, Legislative Assistant, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. at the Downie Wenjack Legacy Boardroom, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

1.1 Annual 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 Susan Summerby-Murray, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Denton Froese 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, nominations for the position of Chair were closed.

The Legislative Assistant declared Denton Froese, 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 Councillor Mason, seconded by John Price

THAT Susan Summerby-Smith 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, nominations for the position of Vice Chair were closed.

The Chair declared Susan Summerby-Smith, Vice Chair of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 1, 2018

MOVED by Susan Summerby-Smith, seconded by Ian Austin

THAT the minutes of November 1, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

10.1 An informal discussion of Committee goals for the coming year.

MOVED by John Price, seconded by Councillor Mason,

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

Correspondence was received from Dr. Iain C. Taylor, dated January 9, 2019.

The Committee will pass this information along to Alana Tapper, Superintendent Parks West, for her information and response. The Committee asked that the Legislative Assistant send a follow-up email to Dr. Taylor advising of its action on the matter. It was noted that the Committee does not provide oversight of staff but acts in an advisory capacity.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Fire and Emergency Response in Point Pleasant Park- Peter Andrews, Acting Deputy Chief of Operations, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

Peter Andrews, Acting Deputy Chief of Operations, gave a presentation to the Committee a copy of which is on file. They shared a history of the Park's forest where in 2000 it was a dense forest with an estimated 10,000 dead and dying spruce followed in 2003 with Hurricane Juan where 75,000 trees came down and 100,000 were re-planted. Fire and Emergency response data was shared for 2016-2018 with under 10 incidents each year. Maps of the park and area were shown, highlighting fire hydrant locations and the route trucks would take when responding to an event. Hydrants are a part of HRM's water supply and are owned by Halifax Water. Halifax Water determined that the hydrants in the Park were attached to a small water line and could not be serviced, making them not operational presently. The Fire department can attach their hoses to neighbouring hydrants. Andrews noted that Fire Station #2 is 2 kms away with a 2-4 minutes response time and Fire Station #3 is 3.5 kms away with a 4-6 minute response time, and explained what resources would be used in various scenarios. Andrews reviewed tactics and approach used in responding to brush/ground cover fires and forest fires. There are various water sources used by the Fire Department; how they are accessed and utilized was reviewed. Although salt water is available it is not used as accessing it is difficult operationally. The Park's forest is currently clean and well maintained which lessens the risk of fuel laddering, which was explained. Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency have determined that the Park is no longer at high risk due to the well maintained forest.

Andrews responded to questions from the Committee, confirming that flow rates from neighbouring hydrants were sufficient to respond to an incident in the Park. The hydrants in the Park have been tagged as out of service and would need to be replaced. Andrews shared the department's ranking of priorities which are: life safety, property and then spaces. The Committee thanked Peter Andrews for the presentation.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 10, 2019.

The July meeting has historically not taken place and the Committee would like this meeting date moved to late June, with June 20, 2019 being suggested.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Brian MacDonald

THAT the 2019 Meeting Schedule of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 An informal discussion of Committee goals for the coming year.

The Committee's Terms of Reference were summarized, where the Committee's role is to advise Halifax and West Community Council about the Point Pleasant Park Master Plan. Councillor Mason updated the Committee on the status of the Operations Plan; work is being done and staff should have something to present to the Committee at an upcoming meeting. It was suggested that all members may want to read and review the original plan from 2008 as well as the Halifax and West Community Council update from June 28, 2016 as a basis for discussion at the next meeting. The Legislative Assistant will re-circulate both documents and the web links. Since the original plan was put forward there have been many changes to the Park where some things have been initiated from the plan but where priorities have also changed over time. It may be an appropriate time for a new roadmap and some new direction or areas of focus. The Committee listed a few suggestions of areas of focus they hope to consider: recognition of First Nations in the park; the partnership with Shakespeare by the Sea; the Greenbank Centre; a family friendly focus to encourage visitation; washrooms, play areas and access to water and snacks. Committee members would like to have a clear understanding of the Committee's role where they can focus on areas where they can contribute and be effective and keep moving in the right direction.

The Committee briefly discussed the existing relationship with Parks Canada; their role and ownership and the potential to review this. Squatters in the Park were also of concern and members would like to know how this is being addressed and what solutions might be available. The Committee would like to ensure that staff provide an Operation's Update in person at each meeting, where the Committee can support the work of staff in the Park.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 7, 2019

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support