



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 20, 2019**

PRESENT: Denton Froese, Chair
Susan Summerby-Murray, Vice Chair
Ian Austen
John Price
Brian MacDonald
Chidi Maduakolam
Kelsey Redding
Councillor Waye Mason

REGRETS: Stephanie Gustys
Daniel Flood
Colleen Paschal

STAFF: Stephen Rice, Supervisor Major Parks, Parks and Recreation
Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect, Policy and Planning, Parks
and Recreation
Alex Gallagher, GIS Technician, ICT
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 4:30 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2, 2019

MOVED by Susan Summerby-Murray, seconded by John Price

THAT the minutes of May 2, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

9.1.4 Staff update on the Point Pleasant Park Interactive Mapping Application

10.1 Staff update on Segway scooters in the park

MOVED by Brian MacDonald, seconded by Chidi Maduakolam

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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 Correspondence was received from Charles Jess, dated May 14, 2019.

The Committee asked that the Legislative Assistant reply, noting that this topic was discussed by the Committee under Item 9.1.2 and provide Jess with a link to the presentation.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Operations Update

The following was before the Committee:

- Point Pleasant Park Operations Update memorandum, dated June 20, 2019.

Stephen Rice, Supervisor Major Parks West, shared an operations update with the Committee. It was noted that grass maintenance is contracted out. Removing the multiflora rose is a 7-year project. The lower parking lot will be open until 10 p.m. once the lighting is operational. HRM has purchased picnic tables made of recycled material, 10 of which have been placed in the Park. Rice reviewed the Park

projects identified on the Capital Sheet for 2020-2023, all of which are subject to the budget approval process.

Councillor Mason understood that an earlier study of armouring the shoreline had been cost prohibitive, so there was a question of why it is still on the books and that perhaps the funds could be committed elsewhere. Understanding that the park washroom strategy is forthcoming, it was suggested that two additional port-a-potties should be considered for the area where school groups assemble. Ray Walsh, Parks Manager, noted that this could be done. The washroom strategy is complete, and a report is being prepared for Regional Council, after which a presentation will be made to the Committee. A suggestion was made that some of the benches, perhaps by Black Rock Beach, could be painted in various colours much like the Adirondack chairs found on the waterfront. Alana Tapper, Superintendent Park West, updated the Committee on the Operations Work Plan. A report is being prepared to address the concerns of the Committee which will focus on the work that will be brought to the Committee as it aligns with the strategic direction within the Park Master Plan. The goal is to have this report ready for September.

9.1.2 Forestry Work Project Update

Stephen Rice, Supervisor Major Parks, provided a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which is on file. The Comprehensive Plan provides a forest framework with the goal of achieving a resilient and sustainable Acadian forest. The forest work plan sets 5 operational objectives: fill planting, competition control, tree removal from fortifications, mitigation of crusher dust and invasive vegetation management. A forest thinning project will take place this fall to address some of these objectives. Rice reviewed how the ecosystem responds to a thinning program and how the number of trees to be thinned was calculated. This program will be done over 3 years, 10 hectares a year. The 10.63 hectares to be completed this year was broken down into 5 areas. The methods and specifications being used were reviewed along with a list of tree species that would be removed as well as a hierarchy of Acadian tree species. Rice shared photos of areas of forest before and after thinning.

Rice confirmed that they will be working very closely with the contractor throughout the project. The Committee indicated that some thinning around the fortifications is also necessary to restore view lines, particularly the overgrowth at the North West Arm Battery. It was agreed that a program needs to be developed with set standards for these areas. The Committee encouraged staff to share this information with the public as they found it very informative and that it would address any misunderstanding that is presently out there. Rice noted that there is an HRM Park Naturalization Strategy which will feature this project and provide updates and suggested that corporate communications could also issue a public service announcement. They also have some University students interested in measuring the progress of this initiative.

9.1.3 Update on the Park Fortifications Policy

Carolle Koziak-Roberts, Landscape Architect Policy and Planning, provided a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which is on file. The Comprehensive Plan provides guiding principles for the management of cultural assets in the Park. Preservation principles are followed: stabilize and protect; create a safe environment for the public; record and document if they cannot be saved. Conservation techniques are done in consultation with Parks Canada. Fortifications at the Park evolved over time along with cannon technology. In 2010-2011 a Point Pleasant Park Infrastructure Project was funded by the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments. This included fortification stabilization at: North West Arm Battery, Cambridge Battery and Fort Ogilvie. Each of these forts are a representation of the three distinct periods of cannon technology. Photos, maps and drawings were shared showing the history and work done at each site. Grading and some entombment took place where deterioration was too far along to ensure a safe environment. The goal of the project was to make them sound and prevent further deterioration, not a full restoration.

The Committee thanked Koziak-Roberts for the presentation and encouraged staff to share this on HRM's web site. They discussed what could be done at Point Pleasant Battery as that fort is presently unsafe and unsightly. This site would be affected by the shoreline stabilization plan and should be investigated

along with that work plan. The Committee asked what might be done through the Operational Plan ahead of any Capital Planning to address any safety concerns in the interim.

9.1.4 Update on the Point Pleasant Park Interactive Mapping Application

Alex Gallagher, GIS Technician, shared a demonstration of the Interactive Map for Point Pleasant Park with the Committee.

The starting point for the web-based map was a brochure which was translated into two tabs on the site. The first tab shows the map, highlighting paths and routes in the Park. The second tab shows 13 historical sites and links the user to audio clips about these places. At this time this is a web-based product, as are most of HRM's offerings. Gallagher also showed the mobile versions' display. The 13 sites are also identified with site markers in the Park which contain QR codes as another way to access to the information. This product will need some additional review by ICT and Corporate Communications. It was estimated that it could to launch in 4-6 weeks time.

The Committee thanked Gallagher for the work and were keen to see this move ahead. Members offered to act as beta testers for the application; it was agreed that they could provide valuable feedback. ICT will work with the Legislative Assistant to coordinate the beta testing over the coming weeks. The Committee proposed that a custom URL might be considered in lieu of the QR codes with another alternative being an Instagram Account, where a link to this page could be added; along with the use of hash tags, where users could add more photos and promote the Park's features. The installation of a cell service repeater near the Sailor's Monument was suggested to enhance cell service in the Park and support the use of the interactive map application. The Committee wanted to ensure this new feature was actively promoted by HRM to support its use.

MOVED by Ian Austin, seconded by Susan Summerby-Murray

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommend that Halifax and West Community Council request staff move ahead and launch the Point Pleasant Park Interactive Mapping Application to the public as has been presented the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS

Ray Walsh, Parks Manager, mentioned that the Director's Office has received a request from Cycling NS to consider Segway scooters in the Park weekends and holidays like the bicycle access. The Committee suggested that staff could provide more information and that it be added to September's agenda.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 5, 2019.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support