



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 7, 2019**

PRESENT: Denton Froese, Chair
Susan Summerby-Murray, Vice Chair
Ian Austen
Stephanie Gustys
Chidi Maduakolam

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason
Colleen Paschal
Brian MacDonald
Kelsey Redding

STAFF: Alana Tapper, Superintendent for Parks West
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 5:53 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 – June 20, 2019

MOVED by Stephanie Gustys, seconded by Chidi Maduakolam

THAT the minutes of June 20, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

9.1.3 Operations Plan Engagement

MOVED by Susan Summerby-Murray, seconded by Stephanie Gustys

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Committee was looking for an update on the request for the placement of port a potty to accommodate school trips to the park. Tapper has spoken with Ray Walsh and suggested that this may be outlined in the larger washroom strategy report which is going to Regional Council in December. A presentation on the strategy will come to this Committee in January.

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 William Breckenridge, dated September 13, 2019.

The Committee asked that the Legislative Assistant reply and thank Breckenridge for their correspondence noting that the condition of the heritage sites at Point Pleasant Park continues to be front of mind.

7.1.2 Correspondence was received from Andre Brussard, dated September 26, 2019.

The Committee asked that the Legislative Assistant reply and thank Brussard for their correspondence noting that their letter will be forwarded to Park's staff for their information.

7.1.3 Correspondence was received from Jack Luke, dated October 10, 2019.

The Committee asked that the Legislative Assistant reply and thank Luke for their correspondence, noting that the Committee thought a wellness circuit may be better suited to the Waterfront, and that there were other pressing improvements in the Park at this time such as signage, benches, washrooms, which need to be prioritized.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Shakespeare by the Sea

The following was before the Committee:

- “SBTSNext25” Initiative memo dated October 25, 2019.

Co-Artistic Directors, Elizabeth Murphy and Jesse MacLean introduced themselves to the Committee. They are hoping to open a dialogue with the Committee as they look ahead to the next 25 years for Shakespeare by the Sea. The history and uses of the existing building were shared and it was noted that this space has reached capacity and can no longer meet the growing needs of the company. They are presently working on a 3-year strategic plan which includes a feasibility study for theatre space and considering multiple options. They are hoping to have an opportunity to collaborate with HRM and the Committee.

The Committee appreciates the cultural contributions of Shakespeare by the Sea and the experience it adds to the Park with its use of the Cambridge Battery. The Directors confirmed that they have staff contacts both with HRM and Parks Canada. Options for a new building were briefly discussed noting that there were many important considerations including: climate, accessibility, seasonality and ownership.

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 November 7, 2019.
- Service Guidelines for Parks Handout

Alana Tapper, Superintendent for Parks West, provided an update on operations and reviewed the winter operation plans for the Park. It was noted that citizens are wanting to access parks and trails year-round. Staffing and equipment have been adjusted to reflect this change. The seasonal removal of garbage cans has been problematic, access and maintenance are a consideration. Last year’s snow and ice was challenging but expected to be the new norm with climate change.

Tapper provided an update on the work done by staff following Hurricane Dorian. The focus was on the Memorial and walkways which were cleared between 5 and 7 days following the event. 15 mature trees were lost, other smaller trees were within wooded areas and did not make a large impact. There was on large tree which was leaning and unsafe which prevented the Park from opening for a few days.

9.1.2 Proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- Proposed Meeting Schedule Memo dated October 25, 2019.

MOVED by Ian Austen, seconded by Susan Summerby-Murray

THAT the 2020 Meeting Schedule of the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Operations Plan Engagement

Alana Tapper, Superintendent for Parks West, made a presentation on the Park's Operations Plan to the Committee, a copy of this presentation is on file and posted online. Halifax and West Community Council will be receiving a report at their next meeting.

Tapper reviewed the Comprehensive Plan's four priority areas: forest regeneration, cultural assets, infrastructure and programming. Staff will be focusing on the operations aspects of these priorities when working with the PPPAC. There is a 10-year workplan for forest regeneration, 2018-2028. The first phase of forest thinning was completed in the fall of 2019. Staff will continue to keep the Committee updated and engaged in this work. Cultural Assets will focus on the shoreline and fortifications as well as completing a detailed inventory of cultural sites. This work will be done in consultation with the Cultural Assets Manager. Programming will focus on the proposed Greenbank Building and how it will be used. This is included in the 10-year plan and is tentatively scheduled for 2025. This work will involve Parks Capital and Corporate Facility Design and Construction staff. The Committee will be engaged in aspects of this work as it comes to fruition. Infrastructure improvements will include: entrances, pathways, signage, lighting and park furnishings. Tapper shared a proposed schedule for this work from 2020- 2028. This work can be started using the operations budget, state of good repair fund. A contract supervisor is being added to staff to build room for these types of projects to get underway. Tapper presented two approaches for how staff could collaborate with the Committee and receive feedback. Option #1; create a task force within the PPPAC. This Subcommittee would take the ideas developed within the committee and presents proposal(s) to the PPPAC. The PPAC would select one proposal by vote. Staff then implements selected proposal and follow up with the PPPAC when complete. Option #2; staff works with PPPAC to consolidate ideas and develop new proposals. Staff brings back proposal(s) to the PPPAC to select one proposal by vote. Staff then implements selected proposal and follows up with PPPAC when complete.

The Committee endorsed the second option and suggested it could become a standing item at future meetings. Members welcomed this approach and looked forward to actively supporting and providing advise to staff.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS- NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 9, 2020.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support