



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 16, 2017**

PRESENT: Paula Minnikin, Chair
Ann Boswick, Vice Chair
Dawn Vickers
Karen Ross
Colleen Paschal
Janice Wentzell
Patrick Larter

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason
Krista Daley
Michael Gerrior
Chelsea Crouse

STAFF: Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks
Mike Gillett, Senior Civic Events Coordinator
Scott MacKendrick, Civic Event Support Coordinator
Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Aaron Windsor, Legislative Support, 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 4:30 p.m., and adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 2, 2017

MOVED by Karen Ross, seconded by Colleen Paschal

THAT the minutes of March 2, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to a request to consider 9.2.1 first on the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

9.2.1 Shilling Ceremony

The Vice Chair provided some background on the shilling ceremony, its long history, and its relevance to the park. The modern ceremony primarily involves the ceremonial handing over and payment of the shilling “rent” to the Crown for use of Point Pleasant Park.

The Vice Chair detailed plans for the 2017 ceremony, which is scheduled to take place May 28th beginning at 2 p.m. next to the Gatekeeper’s lodge with Deputy Mayor Craig representing Council and the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Grant as guest. The ceremony will be brief (roughly 45 minutes) with light snacks and drinks provided for guests and a canopy to shade dignitaries from the weather.

The Vice Chair noted the search continues for dignitaries and representatives of other communities, including a representative of the Mi’kmaq community to bless the ceremony.

The Committee discussed various social media opportunities to make the public more aware of the shilling ceremony.

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 Presentation

7.3.1 Jeana MacLeod from Ecology Action Centre re: Bio Blitz Event at Point Pleasant Park

Jeana MacLeod of the Ecology Action Centre spoke to the Committee on a “Bio Blitz” event the Ecology Action Centre is organizing as part of the Canada 150 celebrations. They noted that the bio blitz will bring together experts and community members to identify as many species as possible in Point Pleasant Park

with the goal of celebrating the biodiversity of the park. They detailed that the bio blitz is anticipated to be held in the late summer, with a tentative date of September 16th.

MacLeod outlined some of the key features of the bio blitz, including the use of the “iNaturalist” application and database that will allow users to upload photos of species for experts to identify, an on-site “bio-bus” with a DNA sequencer to educate community members about how DNA sequencing informs species identification, and hikes around the Park for guided species identification.

The Committee invited Jeana MacLeod to return and attend the July Committee meeting to discuss the event further.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update from Stephen Rice, Supervisor, Major Parks

Stephen Rice updated the Committee on park developments, including a motion approved Community Council to allow weekend bicycle access in the Park. Rice noted that staff had put out a survey to the public, and that respondents agreed with allowing weekend bike access in restricted spaces. The pilot project is expected to be in place beginning July 1st on paths from the Tower road parking lot to the harbour side parking lot following Cambridge drive down to Sailors Memorial Way.

Committee members asked about the level of public participation there in the survey. Staff responded that they did not have that specific information on hand but would return with it at the next Committee meeting.

Committee members queried how weekend biking rules will be communicated to public. Staff noted that signage would be necessary along the intended path. Several committee members voiced concerns that communicating park bylaws to the public has been an ongoing issue for some time. Staff noted that web and perhaps print would also be used to communicate the pilot project to the public.

Staff further provided sundry updates as follows:

- The 2017 Bluenose marathon will be making a greater use of the Park due to the ongoing Macdonald Bridge redecking.
- The Halifax Regional Water Commission will be adding a year-round water station to the Park in the coming weeks.
- The lower harbour-side parking lot will be resurfaced fall 2017.
- Metro Transit will be ending bus service to the lower harbour-side parking lot, leaving the Tower road stop as the sole transit access to the park.

The Committee asked about bylaws related to commercial signage in the park. Staff responded that they have the authority to remove all such signage and recommended anyone who sees such a sign to call 3-1-1.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Shilling Ceremony

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting, see page 2 for details.

9.2.2 PPP Comprehensive Long Term Plan and By-Law Review

The Committee engaged in a priorities planning exercise to narrow the focus of the Committee on a select group of actionable goals.

MOVED by Karen Ross, seconded by Ann Boswick

THAT the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee adopt the following goals for further discussion at the next meeting:

- **Developing a consistent design for PPP fixtures, communications, and website**
- **Developing a touring mobile application for visitors to the park**
- **Improved social media communications**
- **Organizing an annual Shilling ceremony**
- **Establishing a Dog washing station**

The Chair requested that Committee members provide additional information on objectives relating to these goals for discussion at the next meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.3 Communications - NONE

9.2.4 Yearly Priorities

This matter was discussed together with 9.2.2 earlier in the meeting.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 6, 2017

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Aaron Windsor
Legislative Support