CITY COUNCIL 30 MARCH 1995

REPORT - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Adoption of a New City Parks <u>Ordinance 188 - SECOND READING</u>

This matter had been given First Reading during a regular meeting of Halifax City Council held on Thursday, 2 March 1995, and had been further considered during a meeting of the Finance and Executive Committee held on Wednesday, 22 March.

Correspondence had been received from:-

- Ms. Betsy Peterson, Apartment #416, 6969 Bayers Road, Halifax, B3L 4P3 (23 March 1995)
- Mr. Victor Carvery, "on behalf of concerned citizens (30 March 1995)
- Evangeline Cain-Grant, 6156 Quinpool Road, Halifax (30 March 1995)

<u>MOVED by Alderman Blumenthal, seconded by Deputy</u> <u>Mayor Adams that</u> Halifax City Council give second and final reading to the proposed "City Parks Ordinance" attached to the staff report of 27 February 1995 with the understanding that Section 6 (Camping) be amended to add Subsection 6(3) as follows:

> 6(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Africville Genealogical Society may hold their annual picnic and reunion in Seaview Park, subject to obtaining the approval of the Director as to the date therefor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Alderman Epstein advised that, in his opinion, the Ordinance as proposed was inappropriate at this point in time, and <u>MOVED, seconded by Alderman Downey that</u> the provisions of proposed Ordinance 188 not apply to Seaview Park. <u>The proposed</u> <u>amendment was put and defeated</u>.

Responding to a question put forward by Alderman Pottie, His Worship Mayor Fitzgerald advised Council that he and Aldermen Uteck and Blumenthal have met on several occasions with the Africville Genealogical Society during which time the following arrangements (among others) had been agreed upon:

 that the City of Halifax would donate to the Society approximately three acres of land on the shores of the Bedford Basin for the use of a church and community centre;

- that the City of Halifax would contribute \$100,000 toward the establishment of a scholarship fund;
- that the City of Halifax would support the Society's request for services under the Infrastructure Program;
- that the City of Halifax would support the Society's request for funding in the amount of \$69,000 for a research officer;
- that the City of Halifax would grant the Society through its research officer complete access to municipal records;
- that, if on the basis of that research a legal argument could be put forward for redress, the City would join with the Society in correcting the matter;
- that, if desired by the Society, the City would agree to rename Seaview Park.

Mayor Fitzgerald went on to emphasize that the details of the proposed Parks Ordinance had been discussed with the Society's lawyer, and that on the basis of concerns raised at that time, certain changes had been made. He added that the Ordinance is intended to apply to all City park areas and to all users thereof.

On another but related matter, Mayor Fitzgerald emphasized that the City has given its word that, should the motion currently on the floor be approved, negotiations will continue with the Africville Genealogical Society concerning the individuals currently in residence in Seaview Park. However, he emphasized that should after a reasonable period of time those negotiations fail, the City will take steps to enforce the provisions of that Ordinance.

The motion was put and passed.

Amendment to Ordinance 179, the Residential <u>Parking Permits Ordinance - SECOND READING</u>

This matter had been given First Reading during a regular meeting of Halifax City Council held on Thursday, 2 March and had been further considered during a regular meeting

P. UZ

EVANGELINE CAIN-GRANT 6156 Quinpool Road Halifax, Nova Scotia

> Tel: 422-3500 Fax: 429-7848

March 30, 1995 Via Fax

Mayor and Alderpersons c/o Mr. Ed Kerr, City Clerk City of Halifax Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dist'd. Mayor (3) Ald., C/M, Ald. Aide, Press

CITY HALL

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Re: Africville

The undersigned have been retained by Eddie and Victor Carvery in connection with the impending enactment of a by-law designed to remove them from the site of the former Africville community in North Halifax. As their counsel we request that a copy of this letter be distributed to the Mayor and all Alderpersons and that this letter be read at the Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 30, at City Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia, in connection with the debate on the proposed Parks Ordinance #188.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that City Council has an understanding of some of the concerns of our clients in sufficient time to act on those concerns by defeating the proposed Ordinance; or by removing the provisions in it which would purportedly preclude our clients staying on site in Africville (particularly paragraph 6 and paragraph 8); or to amend the Ordinance to specifically exempt Africville from the intended scope of the Ordinance until such time as the issues between the City and former Africville residents or their descendants have been satisfactorily resolved; or even deferring passage of the Ordinance pending resolution of Africville compensation and related issues.

Our clients are very concerned about the manner in which the Parks Ordinance, which is clearly aimed at them, has come about. Our understanding is that a memo to Halifax City Council on the subject of Africville dated October 28, 1994 was not even provided by the City to the Africville Genealogy Society for considered input from members of the Society in a manner to permit any informed or timely input into the deliberations of the City Council at that time. Matters deteriorated rapidly from there to the imposition of impossible deadlines, and now to the creation of a new City Parks Ordinance which, after hundreds of years of family homes, Council, for the first time, finds a need to prohibit camping and use of parks during the off peak hours. We suggest that it is no coincidence that the Ordinance has been developed at a time when our clients have been camping on the site for several months in order to draw attention to the need for resolution of the Africville issues. Nor is it a coincidence that the proposed Ordinance is being rushed through Council only a few months before the arrival of numerous delegates from the international community who might witness the peaceful protest and enquire about its causes.

The camping and hours of operation provisions of the Ordinance are targeted at our clients. Indeed, the entire Parks Ordinance has apparently been manufactured around the objective of creating a legislative scheme to facilitate a second deportation of Blacks from the Africville site and to suppress the protest of

Page 2 March 30, 1995 Re: Africville

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former Africville residents on the only occasion in many decades in which the international community will be focused on this city.

Our clients have every confidence that if adequate time is given to allow information exchange and debate within the membership of the Africville Genealogy Society that the overwhelming majority of members will be shown to strongly oppose the Parks Ordinance until a fair and considered resolution of the Africville issues are negotiated. The question has been posed by at least one Council member, "are we dealing with an organization that represents Africville descendants or not?" Unless an opportunity for polling of members of the Black Community at a grass roots level, after discussion, education and debate, is built into the consultation process, the answer is of course that this small committee which consented to this Ordinance is <u>not</u> representative of Africville residents or descendants.

Our clients have a right to express themselves on this important issue. The means of expression which is fitting to the cause of their protest and which expresses the depth of their feelings on the Africville issue is the occupation of the Africville site from which they and their family were involuntarily removed three decades ago. They assert that their right to express themselves in this way to the unique external audience in June is fundamental to reaching their ultimate audience which includes the City of Halifax and its residents.

City Council has the opportunity of proving the Carvery's wrong in their supposition that the Parks Ordinance is conceived in bad faith, focused in a discriminatory fashion on them and specifically designed to remove them in advance of the G7 Summit. City Council also has the opportunity of proving that it genuinely does wish the input of the majority of the membership of the Africville Genealogy Society. All that needs to be done is to exempt Seaview Park from the ambit of the Parks Ordinance, to allow a reasonable opportunity for dialogue and debate within the Africville Genealogy Society, and unless the issues are resolved in a broad way, to allow the Carvery's to make their protest to the international community before rushing the Ordinance through second and third reading.

If Council insists on jamming this legislation through, it must be prepared for the consequences. These could include:

- 1. Legal action against the City for bad faith, discriminatory use of its legislative powers; and for breach of the constitutionally guaranteed right of free expression and free assembly as well as damage claims associated with any attempts to re-enact in the 1990's the forcible removal of Blacks from the Africville site which occurred in the 1960's;
- 2. Dissatisfaction in all segments of society over the City's handling of this issue could result in the filing of numerous civil claims pertaining to the wrongful taking of land or the wrongful assertion of title to land by the City arising from the events of the 1960's, before allowing the negotiation process to reach a reasonable conclusion; and
- 3. Widespread public and media protests now and through the G7 Summit conference may ensue.

Please give the above your serious consideration. It would be very much appreciated if you could accommodate the concerns of our client by postponing these hasty and discriminatory measures.

Page 3 March 30, 1995 Re: Africville

It should perhaps be added that the proposed Ordinance may not, in any event, apply to the Africville site in that it only applies to "land, owned by the City" and there is considerable dispute about the legitimacy of the City's title claims to this land.

It should also be noted that the Africville Genealogy Society has now obtained funding from the federal government in order to pursue research in connection with the Africville issues. This does signal that there is progress in attempting to resolve these issues. It is frustrating for all concerned to have to await the passage of time in order for these issues to be dealt with fairly and properly. However, it is most important that they be dealt with <u>fairly</u>. In the meantime, the "solution" of the proposed Ordinance should be placed on the back burner.

We urge upon you that the Ordinance should not be considered for final approval at this time.

Yours truly,

Evangeline Cain-Grant Solicitor for Victor Carvery

B.A. Jones Solicitor for Edward Carvery

ECG/ms

March 30, 1995

TO: Mayor Walmer Fimzgerald and Cimy Council Members:

RE: ORDINANCE 188/SEAVIEW PARK (AFRICVILLE)

I am wriming on behalf of concerned cimizens everywhere who would like no see whe swamus-quo mainwained for Seaview Park.

I urge you to consider whis very carefully before adopting/passing ordinance 188 into law.

Considering the Level of community support is is our intervion to underwake a letter writing campagin to City Council Members with copies to editors and Ambassadors to the visiting countries of the G-7 summit.

cerned. #izens

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	RECEIVED	Dist'd. 30 Mar 9:
Filler Line .	MAR 30 1995	(Date) Mayor (7) Ald., C/M, C/3 Ald. Aide, Press
MAR 80 1995	CITY CLERK CITY HALL	
MAYOR'S OFFICE	6969 Bayer Halifax, No March 23, 1	B Road #416 Dva Scotla B3L 4P3

Honorable Walter Fitzgerald Mayor of Halifax City Hall Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Walter Fitzgerald,

Yesterday I sat in City Council for the first time. It was a model of decorum and respect compared to another nearby legislature.

However I was appalled by the abrupt negative vote following the impassioned and heartfelt pleas concerning the campers at Africville. Surely some period of discussion and deliberation among the councillors was in order, some agreement to go slow and negotiate as Rocky Jones so eloquently pleaded. The effect on the Black community was immediate and catastrophic; for short term gain, the Council has coldly rejected and insulted this symbolic stand in the park and thereby dismissed the growing inter-racial harmony and cooperation in this city. The results will be far-reaching. . So much for the International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

It surely seems plain: if the Council and the City are so protective of their Showcase Halifax and their "best foot forward" image vis a vis the G7, just wait till this news of Halifax discrimination and bitterness hits the international press and Internet ! Irreparable damage to this city and its good name. Worse still, racial tensions and bad feelings from the past are seriously compounded. I am ashamed.

Sincerely in concern,

Betty Peterson

Adoption of a New City Parks Ordinance. Ordinance 188 - FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT

This matter had been given First Reading during a regular meeting of Halifax City Council held on Thursday, 2 March 1995.

An Information Report dated 7 March 1995 was submitted from the Director of Engineering and Works.

MOVED by Alderman Blumenthal, seconded by Deputy Mayor Adams the Finance and Executive Committee recommend that Halifax City Council give second and final reading to the proposed "City Parks Ordinance" attached to the staff report of 27 February 1995 with the understanding that Section 6 (Camping) be amended to add Subsection 6(3) as follows:

6(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Africville Genealogical Society may hold their annual picnic and reunion in Seaview Park, subject to obtaining the approval of the Director as to the date therefor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

The following individuals addressed Council in opposition to the proposed Ordinance:

- Ms. Ann Duffy

- Mr. Harold Flint
 Mr. Errol Sharp
 Mr. Fred Furlong
- Mr. Randy Mapp

- Mr. Edward Carvery
- Mr. Victor Carvery
 Mr. B. A. (Rocky) Jones
 Mr. Charles Vemb
 Ms. Lynn Jones

While acknowledging the comments put forward by the previous speakers, Alderman Uteck emphasized that the Africville Genealogical Society had reviewed the proposed Ordinance and, more specifically, had helped to draft subsection 6(3) as outlined in Alderman Blumenthal's motion. The Alderman went on to point out that, as part of a committee established by Council to address certain of the concerns raised by those speakers, he had been given to understand that the Genealogical Society had been authorized to represent the concerns of the former residents of

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 22 MARCH 1995

Africville. Given the degree of opposition expressed during today's meeting and the absence of any of the Society's members, Alderman Uteck questioned whether that was, in fact, the case.

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Alderman Blumenthal emphasized that the question of compensation for former Africville residents and the introduction of a municipal parks ordinance are, in his view, two very different issues. He went on to make reference to the committee established by Council several months ago, and indicated that, in his view, the City is acting in good faith in its dealings with the Genealogy Society to resolve the issues surrounding compensation.

Alderman Epstein indicated that he would be voting against the motion, adding that, in his opinion, the City has not yet done all it can to foster a good relationship with its black community. Given the current state of affairs, the Alderman questioned whether the introduction of the parks ordinance was appropriate at this point in time, suggesting that it should perhaps be postponed until "the healing process" is complete.

Concurring with the comments put forward by Alderman Epstein, Alderman Downey recommended that further discussion on this matter be deferred until a recommendation on compensation has come forward.

After some further discussion, <u>the motion was put</u> <u>and passed</u> with Aldermen Downey and Epstein voting in opposition.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

MARCH 22, 1995

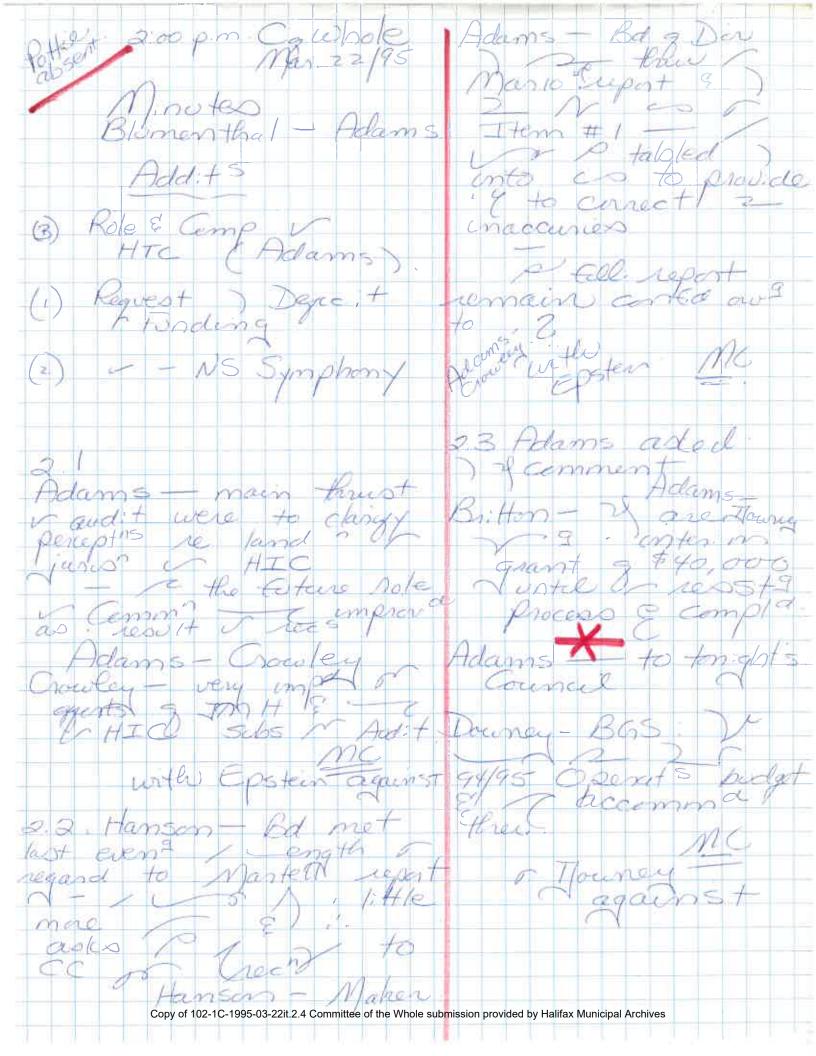
ADDITIONS:

Request for Deficit Funding Stone - Downley. Request for Deficit Funding Sime -Nova Scotia Symphony (Alderman Uteck) Uteck - Hanson Role & Composition - Halipy Taxi Commission (ald Adams) Waller 5.1 5.2 5.3 ~

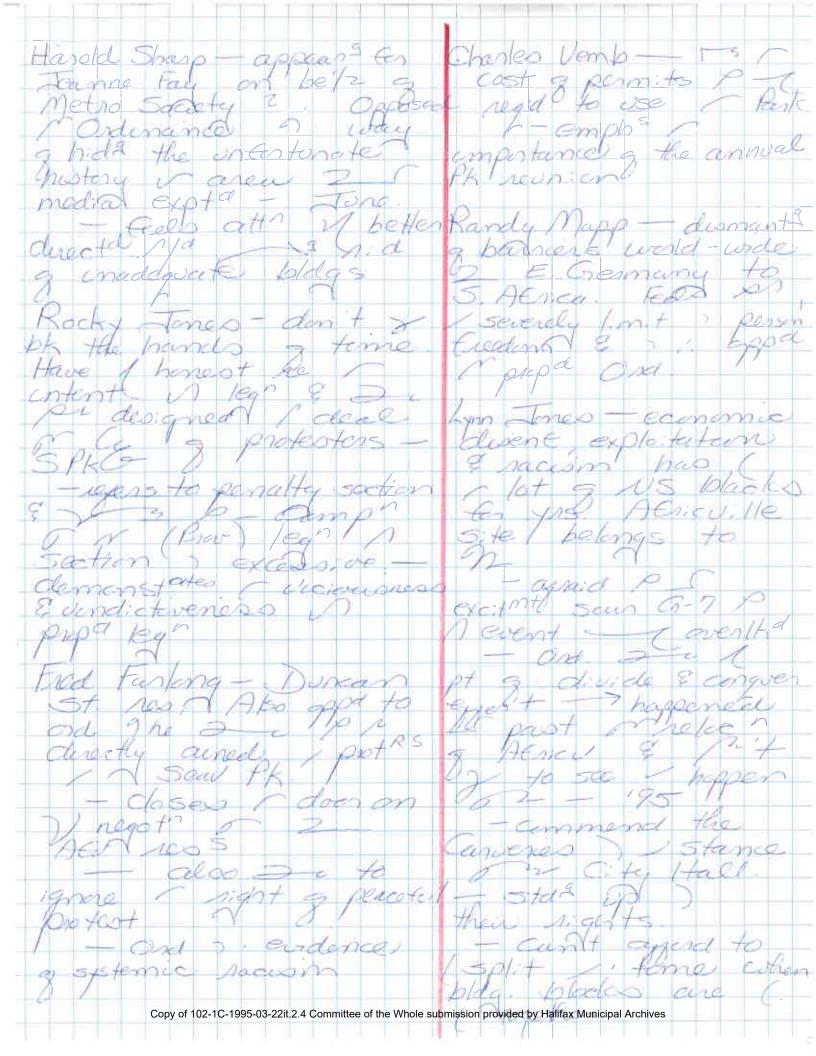
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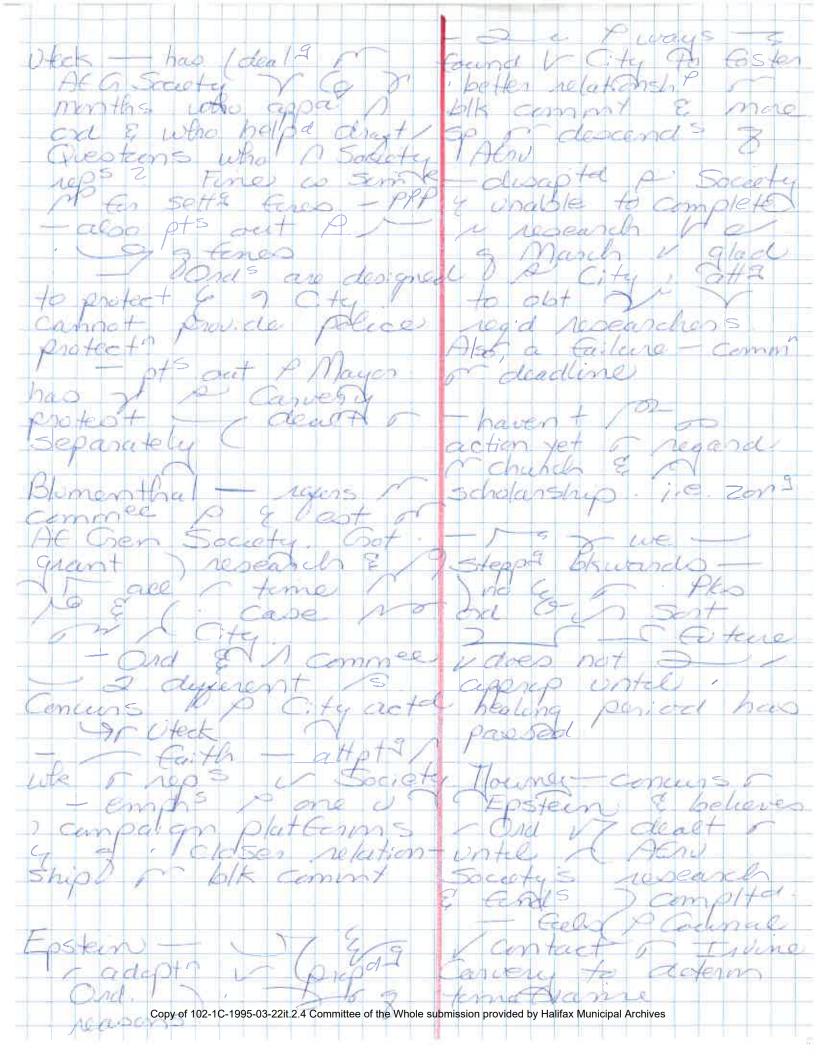
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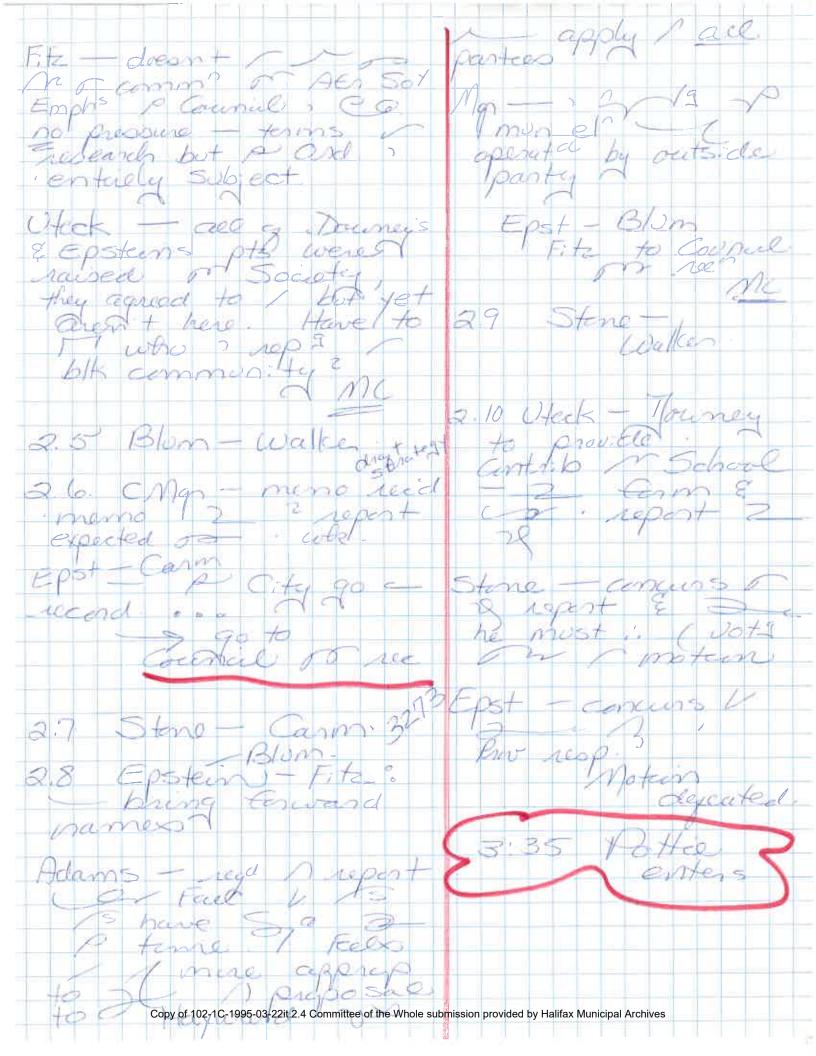
- Adoption of New City Parks Ordinance The following people would like to address the Committee on this item. Ms. Ann Duffy Mr. Edward Carvery Mr. Harold Flint Mr. Victor Carvery <u>Ms. Jeanne Fay</u> M. Map Mr. Rocky Jones Ms. Annette Evans Mr. Fred Furlong Mr. Charles Vemb Mr. Randy Mapp MS. Lynn Jones
- 2.13 (b) Loss of Business (Bedford Highway Improvements) Mr. Kevin Gildart would like to address the Committee on this item.



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FROM : HALIFAX METRO WELFARE RIGHTS PHONE

Mr. Harold Flint 3706 Lynch Street, Halifax,N.S. B3K 3L2

March 8,1995

City Clerk's Office P.O. Box 1749, Halifax,N.S. B3J 3A5

ATTENTION: Mr. Ed Kerr

Dear Sir:

I am requesting the permission of your office and City Council to do a presentation before City Council on March 22, 1995. This presentation would be to the City Council Meeting of the whole. It would be opposing the need for the proposed Ordinance Number 188- Respecting City Parks.

I am opposing this proposed Ordinance as being unfair, unjust, and very unnecessary- now or ever.

I will try to submit my presentation in advance so that City Council will know exactly where 1 stand.

Thank you for your speedy co-operation in this matter. I am looking forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Harold Flint

Digital copy of 102-1B-1995-03-30it14.1 Submissions to Council re. Amendments to Parks Ordinance provided by Halifax Municipal Arheives

Mr. Edward Carvery Africville, Halifax,N.S.

March 13,1995

City Clerk's Office P.O. Box 1749, Halifax,N.S. B3J 3A5

ATTENTION: Mr. Ed Kerr

Dear Sir:

I am requesting the permission of your office and City Council to do a presentation before City Council on March 22, 1995. This presentation would be to the City Council Meeting of the whole. It would be opposing the need for the proposed Ordinance Number 188-Respecting City Parks.

I am opposing this proposed Ordinance as being unfair, unjust, and very unnecessary-now or ever.

I will try to submit my presentation in advance so that City Council will know exactly where T stand.

Thank you for your speedy co-operation in this matter. I am looking forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Edward Carvery part, D. Edward Carvery

per A.D.

4 c. City Clark



CITY OF HALIFAX

MEMORANDUM

ALDERMEN'S OFFICE



RECEIVED MAR 15 1895 OTTY OLERK

TO: Aldermen

FROM: Claude Isaacs, Aldermen's Office

DATE: March 14, 1995

SUBJECT: Attachment

The attached pages were brought in by Mr. Victor Carvery on March 14. Mr. Carvery asked that we circulate his proposal to the Aldermen. He stated that these are some ideas that he has and would like Council to consider once the matter of Africville compensation has been finalized.

a production of the

CLAUDE ISAACS, ALDERMEN'S OFFICE

/kas

PROPOSAL

SUPERTRAIN

- The supertrain would be one that runs on a monorail (single track), or a commuter type train such as the one in Calgary, Alberta.
- 2. Why does metro need one? For the future, people will need to get to work on time, in spite of heavy traffic on the roads. The supertrain would offer a fast, worry-free means of transport. It is likely that in future, highway rush hour traffic will become a serious problem in metro, that is Bedford, Sackville, Halifax, and Dartmouth.
- 3. How will it be financed? There would, of course need to be an initial investment by the metro authorities, but ultimately the train would pay for itself in the form of fares and special event transit.
- 4. How will it increase employment? At the first, people will be employed in the construction of the rail lines, depots, central station (which would be located at Africville), and related facilities. After being built, further employment would be due to the trains' operation and maintenance, as well as fare and schedule office workers and grounds crews.
- 5. Will it reduce vollution and traffic? The obvious benefits of the supertrain are a reduction in pollution since the trains themselves would use electricity, and less problems with traffic congestion.
- 6. The design? A study of the commuter trains in Toronto and Calgary would be instructive to secure the benefits of design and routing, and avoid any possible pitfells which these cities might have experienced with their trains.
- 7. What about service and routing? These would have to be determined in detail, but the general idea is to link all the metro municipalities with efficient and effective service.

HISTORICAL PARK

1. What kind of facilities would be included in the historical park concept?

The concept of an historical park centers around the Africville memory and the place of Africville in the development of the Black Tradition in Nova Scotia. To accomodate this, a museum would be constructed to house Africville memorabilie on-site, and function in other areas of service. Photos, traditional lifestyle wares, stories, artwork, etc, would contribute to the museum's inventory.

2. Other services?

The historical park would include, in conjunction with and complementary to the museum, a research center for the city of Halifax and surrounding communities, supplying such information as the founding of Halifax and its environs, and Black history catalogued for the area.

3. Tours?

A walking tour could be implemented as part of the museum's program. It would inform visitors on where the historic buildings once stood, the church, post office, police station, and the homes of famous citizens.

4. What other attractions or petivities?

For interested visitors, there would be boat tours and fishing orportunities. Shops on-site in a certain location would include arts and crafts, clothing and

- T- T-shirt store, a souvenir boutique, a restaurant, and a fish and exotic food store.
- 5. Jobs?

Job creation would be the result of the buildings, programs, and shops located on the property, as well as the construction of the supertrain station and maintenance of the property.

WINTER CARMIVAL

1. Where?

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The Africville site would be an ideal place to implement a winter carnival for eastern Canada, Atlantic Provinces.

2. Is there enough snow to warrant one?

Naturally the date of the carnival would be contingent on the annual snowfall, but the date can be made flexible and announced each year.

3. Who is this for?

This activity on the historical grounds would be a wonderful occasion for the majority of the metro population to turn out for a winter wonderland, an outing for young and old alike. This could even be an attraction for tourists.

4. Entertainment?

This funfilled couple of days would involve winter games (shorts) as well as entertainment in the form of bands, picnic-type food vending and fair-ground services.



March 15, 1995

City Clerk's Office P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Ph: 421-6536 Fax: 421-6480

ATTENTION: Mr. Ed Kerr

Dear Sir,

I am requesting the permission of your office and City Council to do a presentation before City Council on March 22, 1995.

This presentation would be to the City Council Meeting of the Whole, and would be to state opposition to the Proposed Ordinance #188, respecting City Parks.

I am opposing this proposed Ordinance as being unfair, unjust and unnecessary - now or ever.

Thank-you for your speedy cooperation in this matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



PETITION

Dist'd. Jo Man 195 Mayor (\$) Ald., C/M, C/S. Ald. Aide, Press

WHEREAS: The issues of the expropriation of land and the relocation of the residents of the former Africville have not been addressed to the satisfaction of the former residents and descendants of Africville; and

WHEREAS: Racism was a major factor leading up to and throughout the period of the expropriation and relocation; and

WHEREAS: There is evidence that racism plays a significant role in the continued lack of progress in bringing this situation to a just conclusion; and

WHEREAS: Alderman Blumenthal has presented a motion to City Council (proposed Ordinance 188), with the ulterior motive of removing peaceful demonstrators who are protesting against the injustice and racism which has been directed at former Africville residents; and

WHEREAS: This motion adds further insult to the injuries of the people of Africville;

WE THE UNDERSIGNED DO HEREBY STATE OUR TOTAL OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE #188, AND OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE DEMONSTRATORS AT SEAVIEW PARK, WHO ARE STRUGGLING FOR A PEACEFUL AND FAIR RESOLUTION TO AN HISTORICAL INJUSTICE.

NAME (print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1 Joann	Hartley 30 Joseph Young St. Dart.	J.L. Atertlay
2 CRAIG	VEMB 3341 Robie IV HAD	Leith
3 JEAN	VEMB 3341 Robis ST HER	Jean Nemt
4 Louis 5. (Illui 3742 Rolingst FIRE	M.S.
5 alin 1	Toda 6028 Duffus It 14ft.	M.S.
6 Charline,	Hermont 0029 Duffus St MFX	N.S.
TCharles	5 Vemb 3341 Robiest	H.F.X. N.S.
8		
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Please return completed petitions PRIOR TO MARCH 22/95 to:

Halifax Metro Welfare Rights - 2085 Gottingen Street, Halifax Digital copy of 102-1B-1995-03-30it14.1 Submissions to Council re. Amendments to Parks Ordinance provided by Halifax Municipal Arheives ANN DUFFY 238 'M' Block, Mulgrave park, Halifax,N.S. B3K 3J5

March 17,1995

City Clerk's Office P.O. Box 1749, Halifax,N.S. B3J 3A5

ATTENTION: Mr, Ed Kerr

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Please find enclosed a copy of my possible presentation, for City Council and City Staff. I would appreciate it if this can be circulated to all City Council by the Meeting of the Whole, on Wednesday, March 22,1995 at 2p.m..

Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

It is my hope that City Council will take a serious look at my proposal.

Sincerely,

ANN DUFFY

Ms. Ann Duffy 238 'M' Block, Mulgrave Park, Halifax,N.S. B3K 3J5



March 7,1995

City Cierk's Office P.O. Box 1749, Halifax,N.S. B3J 3A5

ATTENTION: Mr. Ed. Kerr

Dear Sir:

I am requesting the permission of your office and City Council to do a presentation before City Council on March 22, 1995. This presentation would be to the City Council Meeting of the Wholc. It would be opposing the need of and the format of the Proposed Ordinance number 188-Respecting City Parks.

I am opposing this proposed Ordinance on two grounds: 1)It is totally unnecessary and 2) It is against basic human freedoms and rights.

I will submit my presentation in advance so that City Council will know exactly where \mathbf{I} stand.

thank You for your speedy co-operation in this matter. I am looking forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

ann Duffy

METRO COALITION FOR A NON-RACIST SOCIETY P. O. Box 9409, Station A, Halifax, N. S., B3K 5S3

March 17, 1995

Received 11/95 March 11/95

Via Fax #421-6480

Mr. Ed Kerr City Manager City of Halifax Old City Hall Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Re: Ordinance #188 - Respecting City Parks

We understand that this Ordinance is on the agenda for the Committee of the whole meeting on March 22, 1995.

The Metro Coalition for a Non-Racist Society would like the opportunity to address the Mayor and Council at that time.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 423-8105 (Dalhousie Legal Aid Service).

Yours truly,

Jeanne F P

for the Metro Coalition

JF:dlh

b:Vcerr.m17

Submitted March 22/95

Metro Coalition for a Non-Racist Society

P.O. Box 9409, Station A, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5S3

March 22, 1995

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Mayor and City Council City of Halifax Halifax, Nova Scotia

Re: New Municipal Parks Ordinance

The Metro Coalition for a Non-Racist Society opposes this brand-new Municipal Parks Ordinance as a hypocritical and racist proposal to deal punitively with a political issues. This ordinance is not intended to service the citizens of Halifax. Rather, it is a way to hide the appalling history of the treatment of Africville residents from the scores of international media representatives who will descend on Halifax in June for the G-7 summit.

If the City of Halifax wishes to serve its citizens by beautifying our environment, then apply serious standards and \$2,000 a day fines to slum landlords in this city, so that building codes and standards would have enough teeth to punish irresponsible property owners.

The fact is that two men are occupying land which should never have been a municipal park, but should have remained a community, properly serviced by the city. That Africville is now a municipal park which is the location of a peaceful, non-violent protest is causing embarrassment to municipal officials who do not want to be reminded of the shameful way the community was treated. The City of Halifax failed to provide Africville with adequate municipal services or protection from noxious dumping and then removed the people because of the conditions created by that failure. Rather than resolve the issue of compensation to former residents of Africville, the city now proposes to pass a by-law which will render a legal protest illegal and then proceed to fine the protesters at a punitive level not reserved for even the most outrageous violations of other city ordinances.

There are certainly issues in Halifax which require the urgent attention of city council in terms of legislative change and by-law enforcement. These issues include substandard housing, urban decay, non-payment of property taxes, serious environmental concerns and the poverty of citizens forced to rely on municipal social assistance.

Compensation for former Africville residents, however, is an outstanding that requires political, not legislative or punitive measures. We urge you to turn your attention to this matter, and the presence of the two tents in Seaview Park will resolve itself--perhaps even before the G-7 conference.

Yours trub Errol Sharpe

for the Metro Coalition



Dalhousie Legal Aid Service A Community Service of Dalhousie University

March 17, 1995

Mr. Ed Kerr Crty Clerk's Office P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, N.S. BEJ 3A5

Dear Mr. Kerr:

I am requesting the permission of the City Clerk's office and City Council to speak to City Council on March 22, 1995. I would like to address the proposed Ordinance Number 188 respecting City Parks.

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Yours truly,

Annette Evan

B.A. Rocky Jones Barrister & Solicitor

BAI:dlh

b:\city



Dalhousie Legal Aid Service A Community Service of Dalhousie University

March 17, 1995

Mr. Ed Kerr CITY CLERK'S OFFICE P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, N.S. BEJ 3A5

Dear Mr. Kerr:

I am requesting the permission of the City Clerk's office and City Council to speak to City Council on March 22, 1995. I would like to address the proposed Ordinance Number 188 respecting City Parks.

Yours truly,

H. Annette Evans Senior Law Student

HAE:dlh

March 17, 1995

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Yours truly, Annetto Evens Or / Edward Carvery

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March 20, 1995

BY TELECOPIER - 421-6480

city Clerk's Office P. O. Box 1749 ----- Halifax Nova Scotia **B3J 3A5**

ATTENTION: Mr. Ed Kerr

sir:

I am requesting the permission of your office and City Council to make a presentation before City Council on March 22, 1995.

This presentation would be to the City Council Meeting of the Whole, and would be to state opposition to the Proposed Ordinance #188, respecting City Parks.

I am opposing this proposed Ordinance as being unfair, unjust and unnecessary - now or ever.

Thank you for your speedy cooperation in this matter. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Fred Furlong Education & Organization Officer

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	MAR 21 1995 CITY GLERK CITY HALL	
O: ROM: ATE:	Halifax City Council Director of Engineering and Works 07 March 1995	Dist'd. <u>March 21/95</u> (Date) Mayor (B) Ald., C/M, C/S, Ald. Aide, Press Clenks
UBJECT:	Municipal Parks Ordinance	

Origin:

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Council Question of 02 March 1995 from Alderman Downey

Submitted by: Director of Engineering and Works

City Manager's Concurrence:

City Manager

Circulation and Concurrence:

Legal and Corporate Affairs

Background:

At the 02 March 1995 City Council Meeting, Alderman Downey asked to be provided with information from staff prior to the 22 March meeting, as to the name and location of the City parks which will be excluded from the proposed Ordinance by virtue of the fact that regulations pertaining to their operation are already in force.

Discussion:

The proposed Ordinance Number 188 Respecting City Parks is intended to include all City owned parks except Point Pleasant Park. This park is administered under the direction of the Point Pleasant Park Commission, and has a specific Point Pleasant Park Ordinance #11 governing its operation.

The proposed City Parks Ordinance is proposed to provide remedies for potential situations in all other various City park areas not presently covered by existing Ordinances or not clearly defined under the Protection of Property Act.

Two Ordinances, #10 Halifax Commons and Ordinance #10A Grand Parade have existed for many years, however both are somewhat dated and very limited in what they control and are specific only to each of these areas.

Upon approval and implementation of an overall City Parks Ordinance, staff will probably recommend to City Council that we abrogate these two Ordinances as the proposed City Parks Ordinance will provide much clearer legislated protection and control of these areas as well, then presently exists.

Budget Implications:

None

Alternatives:

None

Prepared and Approved by:

Stephen King, Superintendent Parks & Grounds Division

SAK/lk