



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 22, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Musial, Chair
Ms. Shirley Jollimore, Vice Chair
Ms. Jane MacNeill
Mr. Wayne Shellnut
Mr. Dusan Soudek
Ms. Beth McGee
Ms. Kelly Carlton

REGRETS: Councillor Steve Adams
Mr. David Patriquin

STAFF: Mr. Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Aaron Windsor, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Western Common Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/wcac/170322wcac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., and adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

• **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Items 9.2.1 and 9.2.1 were dealt with during community announcements.

9.2.1 Tom Musial re: Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) communication with Western Common Advisory Committee

The Chair brought to the attention of the committee the desire of HRTA to make representations to the committee in the future.

9.2.2 Tom Musial re: Warren B. Ervine, Ph.D., P. Eng., a consulting geologist and professional engineer request to present to Western Common Advisory Committee future meeting

The Chair brought to the attention of the committee correspondence from past Dalhousie University faculty member Dr. Ervine. The correspondence made recommendation that the committee seek professional advice concerning park amenities and the roads/trails with priority for maintaining the ecological integrity of the park.

The committee agreed to have Dr. Ervine attend a future committee meeting to allow for further discussions on the how the development of the park can preserve and enhance its ecological integrity.

Ms. Jollimore made the committee aware that the Resource Opportunities Centre received a New Horizons for Seniors grant to create events with healthy activities and meals for seniors.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 25, 2017

MOVED by the Ms. Jollimore, seconded by Ms. McGee

THAT the minutes of January 25, 2017, be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Staff Updates

4.1.1 Western Common Master Plan - Nichols Lake Trail

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated March 14, 2017

Mr. Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist explained that trail work on the Nichols Lake phase 1 network would continue as weather permits and as discussed at their January 25, 2017 meeting. Mr. Evans further noted that there is \$150,000 available for this work in this year's budget.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Evans provided the following clarification:

- \$150,000 was earmarked for this project through the Municipal budget
- the parking lot has been budgeted for and is part of the existing work plan; he will seek confirmation if \$50,000 was specifically allocated for that part of the project
- the trail is being built to the specifications of the Western Common Master Plan; the trail will completely encircle Nichols Lake, however the connecting segment joining the western and eastern branches would not be barrier free
- the plan does not provide for access from McDonald Lake Drive to the Nichols Lake beach
- Mr. Evans could not speak to whether the existing 2017 Municipal budget would be sufficient to complete the phase 1 trail network by the end of 2017; the present direction is to complete the trail network in accordance with the Western Common Master Plan

Ms. Carlton asked if committee members could search for external sources of funding to move trail and amenity development forward and try and catch up to the Western Common Master Plan timeline. Ms. Vining responded that the committee as a body cannot solicit external funding for park development.

4.1.2 RCMP Protocol for addressing concerns with messy/illegal campsites

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated March 16, 2017

Mr. Gareth Evans, Recreation Planning Specialist spoke to the March 16, 2017 memo and how getting these sites identified and cleaned up is a matter of municipal park staff working closely with the RCMP.

In response to a question raised, Mr. Evans responded that there are no plans for work parties and that the city benefits from third parties like concerned citizens and the RCMP identifying sites for cleanup.

The committee discussed the issue of signage and how it can be used to inform the public about areas where campsites are not permitted and the consequences of building such campsites. The committee further discussed how community groups could identify existing sites and communicate that to municipal park staff. The committee agreed to put together a recommendation for the next meeting to Halifax and West Community Council.

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 Mike Marriott, President of Safety Minded ATV Association dated January 25, 2017 re: Greenhead and Old Couch Road land uses

The Chair noted that the Safety Minded ATV Association had communicated to him their willingness to help with trail work to advance the Western Common Master Plan trail network. The committee discussed the trail work the association presented at their January 25, 2017 meeting and were favourably inclined towards the quality and timeline of that project.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 John Cascadden, Chair of Community Monitoring Committee for the Otter Lake Landfill Facility re: trail planning and implementation options

The following was before the Committee:

- A handout entitled Trail Planning and Implementation Options
- Correspondence dated January 27, 2017 re: trail width for the Western Common Park and pedestrians and cyclists coexisting

Mr. Cascadden gave a presentation focusing on the minimal implementation details of the existing Western Common Master Plan. Mr. Cascadden noted that it is his view citizens want a park that facilitates recreational activities like swimming, fishing, dog-walking, and camping.

The committee discussed these concerns and possible amendments or additions that could be made to the Western Common Master Plan. The committee agreed that a special planning session would be beneficial to discuss specific sections of the existing plan in more detail.

MOVED by Ms. Carlton, seconded by Ms. McGee

THAT a special meeting of the Western Common Advisory Committee be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 to discuss the Western Common Master Plan, specifically focusing on Chapter six of that plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF – NONE

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Tom Musial re: Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) communication with Western Common Advisory Committee

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 2.

9.2.2 Tom Musial re: Warren B. Ervine, Ph.D., P. Eng., a consulting geologist and professional engineer request to present to Western Common Advisory Committee future meeting

This matter was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 2.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., Prospect Road Community Centre Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Aaron Windsor
Legislative Support