



**POINT PLEASANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 3, 2018**

PRESENT: Patrick Larter, Chair
Colleen Paschal, Vice Chair
Ian Austen
Denton Froese
Michael Gerrior
John Price
Susan Summerby-Murray

REGRETS: Stephanie Gustys
Krista Daley
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason

STAFF: Kelly Gaulton, Partnership Coordinator, Parks and Recreation
Sharon Chase, Legislative Assistant, 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 the Committee adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm at Halifax Hall 2nd floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 1, 2018

MOVED by Colleen Paschal, seconded by Denton Froese

THAT the minutes of March 1, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Susan Summerby-Murray, seconded by Colleen Paschal

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Chair read an email from the Deputy Mayor updating the Committee on security plans for large public events and connectivity for park trails to the Trans Canada Trail. The Committee had a brief discussion around security and its effectiveness.

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 Presentations

7.3.1 Sable Island Institute

Zoe Lucas, Sable Island Institute, gave a presentation on the organization and the work it does. They began by inviting Committee members to visit the Lodge. They shared the history of the organization and its evolution, as well as the partnerships and collaborations they are involved with. A key partner is Parks Canada, whose vision and activities align with the Institute. The organization is growing with a new website being launched and the expansion of the beach monitoring program. 50% of its work is off-Island focusing on outreach, education and research. The Lodge is used to house their collection of artifacts and specimens and has provided a space for their off-Island work. It is also a space for their visual artist in residence, Briana Scott, who will be hosting an exhibit in June. Using registered events and a controlled approach, public engagement activities take place at the Lodge and throughout the province. The use of the Lodge has enabled the organization to build and grow.

Kelly Gaulton, Partnership Coordinator, asked for the Committee's support in endorsing a less than market value lease which would go to Regional Council for their consideration. Gaulton reviewed how the Lodge has been used in the past leading up to it being vacant since 2014 and then leased to the Sable Island Institute.

The Committee asked if there has been any other interest in using the space and if the public had been given an opportunity to submit proposals to lease the Lodge. The Committee would support going ahead with the lease for another year but would like to determine if there might be others interested in the space or alternatively if it could be used by HRM as a park amenity. The Committee would like to ensure it is used in the best interest of the Park.

Staff confirmed that the lease is continuing with the same terms and conditions quarterly until a less than market value lease is in place. It was also noted that Parks Canada has sent the Institute a letter of support. At present staff is unaware of any other interest in the Lodge. A 10-year less than market value lease is the standard being used by HRM for not for profit leases.

MOVED by Colleen Paschal, seconded by Ian Austen

THAT Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommends that Halifax West Community Council:

- 1. endorse an extension of a 1-year lease of Point Pleasant Park Lodge to the Sable Island Institute ending February 28, 2019;**
- 2. request a staff report on the best use of the Lodge in meeting the goals of the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan.**

PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Operations Update

Stephen Rice provided an email update which was distributed to Committee members.

- Seasonal and student staff are returning in early May, 5 staff are usually kept in Point Pleasant Park daily to perform regular maintenance.
- Other projects to be completed by summer's end include: painting of park benches, replacement of broken signage, selected removal of invasive plants, replacement of damaged culverts and repairs to Purcell's landing stairs.
- "Do not Pick the Plants" signage is currently with corporate communications for design
- A washroom strategy is being undertaken for all parks with the results and recommendations coming later this year. In the interim 3 accessible port-a-potties will be installed by the May long weekend.
- A 10-Year Forestry Management Plan is being developed for the park. It is currently in draft stages and will be brought to the PPPAC once ready for review.

The Committee discussed the value of having Stephen Rice attend the meetings in person. They would encourage him to attend in future to be able to share what is going on in the park and be available to answer questions related to the work he supervises. The Committee noted that many of the benches were in bad repair and should be replaced, it was also suggested that there should be more benches throughout the park. Committee members pointed out some items needing repairs in the park: new washrooms already have broken doors, broken picnic tables and rusty metal rods in one of the culverts which presents a safety hazard. The cleanliness of the washrooms was also a concern. The Committee is eager to support the work happening in the park and assist by sharing what they see with the Park Supervisor on a regular basis.

The Committee discussed the lack of a formal Operational Plan and the challenges this presents. Without a defined plan it becomes unclear how the Committee can execute on their mandate and make effective use of their time. The Committee would like to ensure they are able to assist in the 10-Year Forestry

Management Plan's development and be consulted at key stages. It was suggested that it might be a good time to review the Committee's mandate and adjust it if required.

MOVED by Ian Austen, seconded by Susan Summerby-Murray

THAT Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee recommends that Halifax and West Community Council request a formal Point Pleasant Park Operations Plan be prepared for use by the Committee in fulfilling its mandate.

PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Committee inquired about the application process for space and resources for third parties using HRM facilities. They discussed the importance of this being a fair and transparent process. Members would like to see an interpretive centre for the park. They would like to receive an update on the Greenbank Building and wondered if the Lodge might be considered for this use.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 5, 2018 at 4:30pm, at Halifax Hall 2nd floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Assistant