



**WESTERN COMMON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 25, 2018
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Shirley Jollimore, Chair
Kelly Carlton, Vice Chair
Betty Hutchings
Michael Lamplugh
Wayne Shellnutt
Councillor Steve Adams

REGRETS: Tom Musial
Frank Johnston
Jane MacNeill

STAFF: Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Support

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 6:31 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair introduced new members Michael Lamplugh and Betty Hutchings to the Committee.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 23, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Steve Adams, seconded by Kelly Carlton.

THAT the minutes of May 23, 2018 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

6. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 Correspondence from Amy Hockin, Resource Opportunities Centre/Prospect Road Community Centre

Correspondence from Amy Hockin, Resource Opportunities Centre/Prospect Road Community Centre received by the clerk's office on July 11, 2018 was before Committee. Staff confirmed that the correspondence has been circulated to Parks & Recreation staff.

Some members questioned whether the park entrance should continue to be designed to be constructed behind the Community Centre, since there appeared to be several problems related to security and lighting. The correspondence raised a number of issues hindering access to the park, and a member questioned whether lighting and cameras would be necessary if the trailhead entrance were constructed elsewhere.

The Committee agreed to follow up on the correspondence by requesting a response from Parks & Recreation and by sending reply correspondence to Amy Hockin thanking her for her correspondence and detailing the Committee's follow up plan.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

10. REPORTS

10.1 STAFF

10.1.1 Update on the Nichols Lake Trail

The following was before the Western Common Advisory Committee:

- A staff Memorandum dated July 18, 2018

Gareth Evans, Recreational Planning Specialist, updated the Committee regarding the current completed and anticipated construction on the Nichols Lake trail. Staff provided the Committee with the rationale for staff selecting option 2 as identified in the May 18, 2018 staff Memorandum to the Committee, previously before Committee on May 23, 2018.

Staff stated that it did not hear a clear and strong consensus from the Committee at the May 23, 2018 meeting favoring option 3 over and above other options. In the absence of a consensus, staff opted to continue currently budgeted trail construction since this work involved clear and well supported goals and outcomes.

Staff also identified other rationales relating to information expressed at the previous meeting of the Committee. While relocating the pathway off McDonald Lake Drive raised the possibility of some cost savings, these were marginal savings. Furthermore, though option 3 would have enabled a portion of trail to be open to the public earlier, the section of trail was relatively small and therefore was not a significant public benefit. Staff added that pursuing option 3 would have required staff to accelerate the pace of work and spending for a relatively marginal public benefit. By delaying access to the public to all parts of the trail, the selected option enables staff to continue working with the municipality, district capital and the community liaison to ensure an appropriate plan is implemented for items falling outside of the Master Plan such as parking amenities and security features.

Several members raised concerns that, despite signage and security, people are circumventing the gate and accessing the trail, raising security concerns. Other members stated that while constructing the trailhead at the back of the Community Centre raised security concerns, other trailhead access points might mitigate these security concerns. Other members questioned whether other trailhead entrances such as McDonald Lake Drive or Old Coach Road would have sufficient lighting to ensure security for visitors. In reply to some members questions regarding this issue, other members explained that the growth and expanded use of the Community Centre was not envisioned when the Master Plan was approved.

Several members asked staff to provide an updated description of the completed trail amenities. Staff replied that there would be a parking lot, likely with gravel. Though staff cannot currently provide a fixed number, there would likely be somewhere close to thirty-five parking spaces. There will likely not be winter maintenance for the trails or parking lot. There will also likely not be lighting for the parking lot since normal park rules provide for access between nine and six o'clock.

Staff confirmed that the bridge preparation work is being performed and will likely be completed by January of 2019. The bridge is expected to cost between \$150,000 to \$400,000 in total costs. Annually, \$50,000 is budgeted to the construction of the bridge. This schedule anticipates the bridge may be constructed and completed ten years from today, although if additional funding were secured the timeline could be shortened. Several members stated that they have spoken with municipal staff regarding the ability to apply for a grant request from the province. Members understand that the municipality can make a request, but the committee cannot do this independently. However, it remains to be explored if community groups can apply for funding. A Member proposed the Committee should further explore this as a possibility. Some members also added that because safety-minded ATV community groups are currently building pathways in the surrounding areas, there may be a future connection that will create an alternative entry way to the trail which would not require staff to raise the costs currently required to construct the bridge crossing as currently contemplated. The current bridge design is required to carry construction vehicles into the park trail from the current access point. A future access point could enable staff to construct a less costly bridge while gaining construction access to the trail from another point of entry.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at the Prospect Road Community Centre Art Room, 2141 Prospect Road, Hatchet Lake.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Simon Ross-Siegel
Legislative Assistant