

Report of PPPAC Meeting – Thursday, Mar 9, 2007

Present – Anne West, Janet Kitz, Kate Greene, Gus Reed, Allan Robertson, Peter Bigelow, Stewart MacMillan.

Regrets – Sue Uteck, Phil Read, Vivek Tomar, Tammy Morley.

1) **Thanks from John Charles** – John sent a formal ‘thank you’ for the Committee’s gift of appreciation for his assistance over the past six months until Stewart Macmillan joined as the permanent project manager.

2) **Forest restoration – Works schedule** – Stewart MacMillan indicated the plan was for work to begin on the land between Shore and Heather Roads, and then on Pine Road. While the sound of chainsaws had been evident over the week preceding the meeting, there were no reports of residents complaining about the work. Why no complaints were received is inconclusive – probably a combination of the press release, the website posting, and the good job the forestry workers did.

3) **Master Plan startup** – Peter Bigelow reported on progress. Peter, Stewart, and John Charles met with the Ekistics part of the consulting team the previous week. The consultants were preparing a detailed work plan for review the following week. They plan to complete research in roughly six weeks, at which time NIP paysages will join them to begin design work. Protocols are being finalized for restoration work. Drafts of various elements of the Master Plan will be posted to the website as they are prepared. There was a discussion about presentation of the final draft of the Master Plan in the fall (October?), possibly tied in with a fund raising initiative.

4) **Planning session** – Virginia Jauregui, an HRM Community Developer, explained what her role would be as a facilitator for a proposed PPPAC planning session next month to develop an annual plan. She carried out a short survey to sharpen her understanding of the issues likely to be of interest to the Committee. ***It was agreed that the Committee would devote its normal meeting on April 13th to developing an annual plan. Further, it was agreed to begin the meeting at 3:00 PM rather than the normal 4:00 PM to provide more time. The venue will be announced.***

5) **Finances** – Peter Bigelow reported briefly on the financial situation, indicating that the CFIA was being cooperative, and that significant assistance was anticipated from Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, in light of the \$2 million pledged for restoration of Stanley Park. ***FOLLOW-UP*** – Minister MacKay held a press conference on March 15th where he announced a \$1 million federal contribution. Further, a number of us took a long walk in the park with Minister MacKay. He was thoroughly briefed by Peter Bigelow as we walked. Apart from an obvious focus on trees and forest restoration, the Minister was quite interested in the damage to the waterfront and the batteries, and said he would bring the issue to the attention of his relevant ministerial colleagues.

6) **Proposed SPCA Benefit in PPP** – Peter indicated he had received a request from the organizers of the 2007 Dog Jog SPCA fund raiser for the event to be held on Shore Road in PPP in June. There was general agreement with the concept, pending satisfactory resolution of the following concerns – 1) How ‘commercial’ is the event (it is to be sponsored by an international pet food manufacturer, so is it a trade show in disguise?), 2) Should there be a charge for use of the Park? 3) How will the inevitable required cleanup be handled by the organizers? 4) How do we handle the ‘No dogs after 10:00 PM’ policy for that section of the Park? It was agreed staff would meet with the organizers to explore these issues.