

Report of PPPAC Meeting – Thursday, Sep 13, 2007

Present – Anne West, Kate Greene, Allan Robertson, Stewart MacMillan, Peter Bigelow, Brian Phelan, Duncan Morum, Harald Norve, Gerrie Masters, Leanne Chisholm, Janet Kitz, Phil Read, Stephen Rice, Kevin Tulk

Regrets – Vivek Tomar, Paul Doane, Sue Uteck.

Venue – The Lodge's meeting room can hold roughly ten persons. Due to increased PPPAC numbers (11 residents plus six or more from staff and Council) the meeting was moved to the Park workshop area.

1) Welcome to Stephen Rice, new PPP Supervisor – Allan Robertson welcomed Stephen to the meeting, and committee members expressed their support for him in his new responsibilities.

2) Dogs in the Park – Brian Phelan gave an update on the progress of the City's emerging off-leash strategy, indicating that, in addition to Seaview Park and sections of Point Pleasant Park, parts of the Dartmouth Common, Fort Needham Memorial Park, Sandy Lake Park, Shubie Park, and Hemlock Ravine Park have been selected as pilot off-leash sites. They were expected to be open in October. Use of up to 20 sports fields is also under consideration. A discussion followed on the size of the problem (most members agreed it is significant), the need for improved enforcement (jurisdictional issues between Park staff, Police, and Animal Control were discussed), and suggestions (issuance of a flyer as a first warning, posting the size of fines, adding more signs, putting messages on plastic bag dispensers, distributing pamphlets, etc.). Stewart MacMillan indicated that the issue will be given stronger presence on the Park website, that more signs are planned, and that all Park entrances will be signed. He also provided four website addresses which might interest PPPAC members –

Dogs in Point Pleasant Park: www.pointpleasantpark.ca/inside.asp?cmPageID=219,

Responsible Pet Ownership: www.halifax.ca/AnimalControl/OwnerResponsibilities.html

Animal Services, Registering A Complaint: <http://www.halifax.ca/AnimalControl/RegisteringComplaint.html>

Real Prop. Planning, Off Leash Parks Strategy: <http://www.halifax.ca/RealPropertyPlanning/OLPS/index.html>

3) Temporary signage – Stewart indicated that, in addition to additional signage mentioned above, additional signs are planned in the Park in association with expected new plantings.

4) Implications on the Park from various initiatives – The implications on the Park of four current City planning initiatives (the PPP Master Plan, HRM by Design, the Urban Forest Master Plan, and the Halifax Urban Greenway) were discussed. While the PPP Master Plan deals directly with the Park, it became apparent that the other three initiatives could have significant effects on the Park. HRM by Design, for example, includes plans for large increases in peninsular Halifax population (and, by extension, Park users). The Urban Forest Master Plan, derived from the recently-completed Regional Plan, recognizes that Halifax has one of the best tree canopies in the country, and will be a strategy to protect and support the city's trees (including those in PPP). The Halifax Urban Greenway includes plans for a four-metre-wide walking/running/cycling/roller-blading track on the Park's edge along Point Pleasant Drive, requiring removal of a significant number of large trees. In connection with expected population increases on peninsular Halifax, there was general concern with the Park's capacity to absorb significant additional usage. Given the lack of data regarding current Park usage, the need for a user survey became apparent.

5) Master Plan update and capital options – Peter Bigelow indicated that a draft of the Master Plan was expected to be shown to staff in early October, after which PPPAC would be asked to review it. He provided an interesting presentation on the Park's response to three recent damaging events – a major cutting program in response to a perceived threat from the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle, damage from a major ice storm, and damage from Hurricane Juan. The presentation was particularly helpful to new PPPAC members. He also outlined draft results from discussions with federal officials regarding how the \$1 million federal donation to Park restoration would be spent. A copy of the draft used in the discussions is attached; PPPAC members are reminded that it is confidential and should not be shared. Subsequent to the meeting, Stewart MacMillan indicated that funds for a user survey (see 4, above) would be sought through the federal donation.

5) **Other** – Kevin Tulk of HRM Police indicated that the Park appears to be remarkably free of crime. Over the first eight months of 2007 the following incidents were reported:

Thefts from motor vehicles	3
Lost property	2
Found property	2
Parking complaints	23
Liquor complaints	7
Tickets issued	7