



**Draft Council Minutes - Wednesday, Sept 23, 2009**  
**Howard Park Tennis Club**  
**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Present:**

Robin Sorys	Member-at-large, Chair
Bernard Sanders	Member-at-large
John Cleary	Member-at-large, co-chair K9 committee, acting secretary
Barrie Thomson	Member at Large, Treasurer
Paul Wehrle	Member at Large
Kim Beemer	Member at Large, Vice-chair
Tammy Reid	co-chair K9
Lyn Green	Allotment Gardens
David Redwolf	Director, Taiaiaako'n Historical Preservation Services
Helen Sousa	Park Supervisor
Amy Ratelle	Member at Large
Adriana Muznatto-Hamu	Associate of David Redwolf
Bill Saundercook	Councillor, Ward 13, City of Toronto
O. Puck	Associate of David Redwolf
Fareed Ismail	Associate of David Redwolf
Diane Buckell	Member at Large
Cindy Carroll	Member at Large
Gloria Worth	Park Watch

**Absent:**

Jane Schmidt	Volunteer Stewardship Program
Karen Yukich	Co-chair, Natural Environment Committee (abstained - see 7.6)
Sharon Lovett	Co-chair, Natural Environment Committee (abstained – see 7.6)
Mark Ellwood	Walking Tour Coordinator
Karyn Morris	Member-at-large
Jane Brown	Member at Large
Norm Chew	Member at Large

**Regrets:**

Jerry Hodge	Building, infrastructure and safety committee
Cheryl Hart	Colborne Lodge
Robert Glover	Member at Large
Tyler Devine	CanStage
Ali Mustafa	Member at Large
Wendy Rothwell	Toronto Field Naturalists

**Copied**

Gord Perks	Councillor, Ward 14, City of Toronto
Cheri Dinovo	MPP Parkdale-High Park
Gerard Kennedy	MP Parkdale-High Park

**1. Introductions/Adoption of agenda**

None

**2. Declarations of conflict of interest**

None

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Add Amy and Cindy to the regrets column for June meeting

Kim Beemer requested the following text be added:

*“the ad hoc committee report stated that the funds are not “allocated” to any one group – Ken Sharratt is in agreement. At the June Executive meeting Sharratt confirmed that there has always been one HPCAC bank account and that the reference to sub accounts is a paper record only, which is generated by HPCAC for the purpose of tracking the coming and goings of funds. In preparation for the ad hoc committee I specifically asked if tracking these funds separately meant that the monies were segregated for the sole use of that particular group, and this is where the difference of opinion lies between Sharratt and myself, as his response was clearly that this was not the case i.e. funds are used by all of HPCAC. It should also be noted, that requests have been made for the June Executive minutes to Sharratt and to date they have not been made available*

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Barrie Thomson

**Financial Update**

- Walking Tours	\$ 539.13
- VSP	\$ 3,178.37
- Children’s events	\$ 1,400.00

Cleared Transactions

- VSP monies (HPI) deposit:	\$1,671.00
- VSP funds requisitions:	\$ 960.00

Pending Transactions

- Plant sale proceeds:	\$ 5,350.00
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Status of Disbursements

- VSP (Misc. funds):	\$ 360.00
- VSP (Project Chirp):	\$ 300.00
- VSP (August Outing):	\$ 300.00

Barrie expresses concern with the state of the financial situation, in regards to the fact that there are missing VSP funds from the HPCAC account.

**Motion**

Any outgoing funds from the HPCAC account to groups that choose not to following existing terms of reference and financial agreements will stop until said groups become compliant with existing terms of reference and financial agreements

2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Wehrle

Passed unanimously after brief discussion

**5. Business arising from the minutes**

Update in regards to facilitated session

Robin indicated that some programs are not willing to currently participate in HPCAC, and the council had planned a facilitation session during the summer but Management Advisory Services had backed out due to a lack of background information. Helen and Robin worked out a plan for a new session and Robin will update the group at the next meeting.

## 6. New Business

Burial mounds in High Park

David Redwolf

David Redwolf updated the group on burial mounds in High Park (documentation provided to council is available for download in the meeting minutes section of [www.highpark.org](http://www.highpark.org)). He highlighted the bylaw violations on Snake Mound by bicyclists, as the existing activities are in violation of all biking bylaws (off-trails, danger to others, destruction of trees, soil draining into water with potential for contamination of water). He strongly suggested that the support foundation be reconstructed, the mound rebuilt, trees replanted on areas that do not containing burial sites and signs posted at both ends of the mound immediately (his group is willing to put the signs up if staff are too busy).

David expressed a number of grievances in regards to the sites including violations of bylaws regarding snake mound, danger to others posed by bicyclists, destruction of trees, soil draining into water with potential for contamination of water. He indicated his archeological consultant Keith Powers, was also upset about delays from Park's regarding permission to do non-intrusive survey of High Park. David was also upset about the presence of bird watchers on "Hawk Hill", concerned regarding the state of this burial mound (collapsing due to activity, indentation ...) and safety issue with crowds over shallow burials.

There was a brief question and answer session after his presentation

Q: Are you suggesting that any and all activity on all these sites should cease?

A: Wherever there are paved pathways and existing activity can remain, damage already done rather we would like to readjust trails so that they go around mounds rather than over mounds. We can accommodate other usages of the park around mounds and pay respect to ancestors. Other sites in North America have created trails and boardwalks around similar mounds.

Q: What about non-paved sections, which represents a large portion of park?

A: There is a need for non-invasive assessment of the entire park to determine where the mounds are, then we need to have a discussion on how to proceed. David noted that Eagle mound has collapsed and has been washed out, and has been like that since May.

Q: Has there been an independent assessment of the status of burial mounds?

A: The assessment as to status of burial mounds is from our group (David Redwolf) and we are waiting to hear from City regarding independent assessment. Hawk Hill mound is unlikely to be due to construction of Grenadier Café, topographical maps and photo evidence show Hawk Hill as being present historically. David expressed a grievance with City's archeological contractor: Archeological Service Inc.

Robin indicated that these issues are currently before the City and it is the City responsibility to work with David on next steps.

### Motion

David Redwolf to join HPCAC as representative of the Chiacon historical preservation services, a not-profit organization

For: 9 Abstain: 2

After David's group had left there were some questions about the procedure of the vote, as he was not asked to leave and there was insufficient discussion of his groups actions and its implications. John explained that traditionally the council hasn't voted on people/groups joining as representatives and groups have been added without consultation. In addition the motion simply has them joining as a group but does not imply support for their position or bolster their argument. Members expressed concerns that the council could easily be sidelined with these types of discussions in the future. Members of the council expressed support for the addition of more voices on council, as the council then becomes better able to advise the City.

In regards to City's position, Helen indicated that Hawk hill is a registered site, but the Ministry of

Culture registered the site without notifying the City such that the City hasn't had the opportunity to properly assess the site.

## 7. Reports/Updates

### 7.1. High Park Supervisor Capital Works

Helen Sousa

#### **a. NW Stairs**

Work on the stairs at North West corner should begin by the end of year work should begin. Bernard mentions stair route is open to public, Helen countered that staff close these regularly but they are easily vandalized open

#### **b. Section 37 trails money**

The capital group is preparing a report to council, work should begins ~2010

#### **c. 5 year lighting program**

To focus on rewiring and replacing poles, while the City is open to other suggestions for lighting improvements to the park. Members of council mentioned that "Stargazing group" and the possibility of alternative energy efficient measures. Helen reported that in 2005, lights were already changed to more energy efficient with a huge saving in hydro cost and labor costs. Robin will try to dig up 2005 report about lighting for council

#### **d. Off-leash area**

City staff will be meeting in beginning of October. The TRCA will be providing comments and work may begin on gates for the east slope of Dog Hill and the bottom of TTC stairs. Members suggested gates at entrance to off-leash area and also expressed concerns about the lack of involvement of the working group in decisions. Helen reported that comments from working group will be given to a consultant, who will report back to the group. This consultant is separate from City landscape architect working on fencing issues for off-leash area. There were strong concerns that the last working group was in January and that they City was going ahead with plans without consulting dog-owners. Other concerns included what information is being put forward to consultant (ie, discussion or suggestions from working group) but Helen hasn't had a chance to meet with consultant. Members felt that the consultant needs to meet with the primary user group (ie. the K9 committee). John indicated the City has never come to the K9 committee directly to discuss the off-leash area review and the presence of other conflicting groups has slowed and complicated the issue.

Helen will ask the consultant to contact the K9 committee directly regarding plans for the off-leash area.

#### **e. Farmers market**

Following public concerns previously expressed about farmers market, the City is looking for feedback from the council regarding the farmers market. Comments from the group included:

- *no need given abundance of organic markets*
- *profit only to Grenadier group, no feedback to park*
- *possibility of Sorauren park type farmer market that don't involve Grenadier Group*
- *current market is single vendor but would be in favor of Soraurenstyle community based market*
- *I don't support Grenadier Café taking on this initiatives, need more imaginative with food grown in park so money comes back into park, utilize people who use the park, logical first step could be to involve Allotment garden*
- *Grenadier Group is paid for privilege of organic market by single market, market is expanding beyond grounds of GG property, GG given free reign over existing structure*
- *Concern about activities of GG regarding sale of food on premises, does it include farmers market*
- *HPCAC letter to GG about farmers market*
- *lovely idea of farmers market but sublease and quality and expense of product off putting, market should directly benefit of park, no point in GG farmers market, another form of market would be acceptable.*

**7.2. Colborne Lodge**

Cheryl Hart (*communicated by Secretary*)

Chery Hart is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

The Colborne lodge Harvest Festival will be held on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4:30 pm.

**7.3. Buildings, Infrastructure and Safety Committee**

Jerry Hodge (*communicated by Secretary*)

Jerry is absent this week and sends his regrets

Buildings:

The Welcome Centre operated this summer from Canada Day to Labour Day on weekends from 10AM to 4PM (weather permitting). 1426 people used the services provided by the volunteers that staffed the booth on the patio of the Grenadier Restaurant. With the terrific work of Robin, Diana and Christianna, the designated intern for the program, we were able to set up and get the booth open and running smoothly on opening day. From then on volunteers from HPCAC came in to offer three hours of their summer weekends to staff the booth. Robin and I offered the backbone of the service during the summer but special mention demands we thank Bernard Sanders, Gloria Worth, Diane Bucknell, and Wendy Rothwell as stalwarts in helping with the staffing. Thank yous will follow at the next meeting. The Welcome Centre was an experiment to see if such a facility is useful, to determine if there should be a permanent facility, and if so, to determine what it should be like and where it should be. There has been some progress in those issues this summer, but much more needs to be decided and done.

A full report on the program will be made after a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in October.

Infrastructure:

A meeting of Robin, Karen Yukich and I with the Forestry Staff last spring initiated the start-up of a trails strategy which will result in repair, removal and rebuilding of existing trails. The program will begin on the east slope of the park between Spring Creek and Parkside Drive. This area was chosen because the trails are heavily used by the Nature Centre and are deteriorating rapidly with 6,000 students traveling over them each year. It is hoped the Nature Centre can develop programs that will assist with trail improvement among some of their clients.

The first step was a safety check of existing trails with the marking and removal of dangerous trees and limbs. The tree marking has been done by Jennifer Gibb and her crew. A contractor will take down the offenders and will close obvious trail spurs with the cuttings with their direction. A walk-about with Helen, Forestry and Nature Centre staff on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> on the site looked at specific issues on the trails and talked about a way to proceed. Sadly, Diana Teal resigned her directorship of the Nature Centre this summer so we are awaiting a new director to get a program started to do trails work. I hope the work can begin late next year.

Over the winter a comprehensive trails strategy needs to be put together for this area and funding needs to be obtained. Since all of the HPCAC chairs have a stake in trails development, I will suggest the four amigos, (NEC, VSP, K9 and BIS) meet regularly over the winter to oversee the task of developing a comprehensive strategy similar to the Crouthers Woods trail strategy developed by Scott Laver. I am planning to meet with Scott before the next HPCAC meeting. Jennifer Kawalski is interested in such a project.

Signage has proceeded a little more slowly. Kevin Bowser has agreed to add "You are here" to existing park map boards and Helen Sousa is waiting on a new map board to be put up at the corner of West Rd. and CL Road near the phone booth.

Otherwise a search of historical maps of the park, six in all from various eras back to the late 1800's, showed no trail names on any map. That, of course, is a blessing and a curse. Getting it done is important but we have no precedents to work with. So there needs to be a theme that resonates with park users, that reflects the Park's history, that reflects nearby built features, that reflects the park's geography, or the location of nearby roadways... etc.



contacted and park users should also report harassing behavior to the police.

**7.6. Natural Environment Committee**

Karen Yukich (*communicated by Secretary*)

The following email was passed along from the co-chairs of the NEC/VSP in regards to their lack of attendance.

*"We found the past year's meetings to be often unproductive as well as divisive. We had hoped the facilitation session might lead to some changes, but since this has not yet occurred (and no explanation has been provided about its status) and we are not aware of any commitment to make any changes to improve the character of the meetings, we will not be attending HPCAC meetings for the time being. Instead, we will continue to focus our energies on matters that we feel are of direct benefit to the park.*

*Karen/Sharon"*

Robin reminded the council of her previous statements regarding the facilitation session. In addition a meeting with Kevin, Helen, Robin and Kim is scheduled for early October to discuss how to move forward on this issue.

NEC Updates

a) Sculpture Hill fencing and planting: new post-and-rail fence has been installed to protect natural area, restoration planting has begun

*[Discussion by the council]*

*Members expressed concerns that the plans for the plantings were not fully brought to the council for discussion. It was reported that Urban Forestry went ahead with plans against NEC objections. Helen reported that the plan was a Nature Centre planting to restore area disturbed by removal of sculpture. Members expressed concerns about signs at the site indicating the project was endorsed by council despite not having been raised and debated. Other concerns were raised in regards to the fact that the NEC is discussing issues on behalf of council with Urban Forestry without proper reporting to the council. It was mentioned that council members need to be aware of all activities within park and the failure of the NEC to bring items to the council is putting the park and council in jeopardy.*

*[Discussion ends]*

b) Signage process: Ken Sharratt met with City staff to determine process for creating/producing interpretive signs. Propose to try one sample.

c) Ontario Nature at Harvest Festival: We are contributing with VSP displays, a volunteer work event, tour of oak savannah, Nature Centre activities at the site, and support from Don Barnett at Hawk Hill.

Nature Centre is not participating with Ontario Nature, NC will be at Harvest fest and will have separate booth.

d) Karner Blue recovery program: In the process of setting up a meeting with Toronto Zoo, Ontario Nature and City to discuss controlled breeding facility in High Park (for release at more remote locations).

e) Public education about High Park nature: research/writing project is underway.

VSP Update

The VSP was busy this summer, even though there was a strike by city workers which prevented us from working on our usual tasks like planting and invasive species removal. Jane Schmidt spent a considerable amount of time organizing and leading a series of 3 field trips.

The VSP has spent \$460.14 on our summer programs to date.

June 21, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Field trip to Project CHIRP (how to build bird-friendly gardens)
July 5, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Tour of the restored areas of High Park
July 19, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Tour of the waterways in High Park
July 29, 2009:	VSP/NEC Celebrate Nature in High Park Project first meeting
Aug. 2, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Field Trip to 3 Humber River parks with R. Aaron & J. Schmidt
Aug. 16, 2009:	Himalayan Balsam removal
Aug. 17, 2009:	Special meeting to clean up Boulevard Beds
Aug. 19, 2009:	Special meeting to work in nursery with Jocie
Aug. 23, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Community Stewardship Program Event and Tree Identification workshop
Aug. 25, 2009:	Special meeting to work in nursery with Jocie
Sept. 5, 2009:	Volunteer Development: Field Trip to Rouge Park Wetlands near the zoo with Andy McKinnon
Sept. 19, 2009:	First planting in the Sculpture Garden restoration site

In addition, volunteers assisted at the High Park Welcome Booth.

*[Discussion by council]*

*Concerns were expressed with the spending practices of the VSP and their failure to provide receipts and overall accountability for funds spent. The VSP had at previous meetings indicating they would provide updates on the summer meetings as well as receipts for money spent. Members expressed concerns about the lack of notification about VSP events and the lack of email to members despite asking to join their mailing list. There was a brief debate about actions required and it was decided that the executive will draft and issue statement about process to every group at the council.*

*[Discussion ends]*

**7.7. Friends of High Park/HPI**

Jane Schmidt

Jane is absent. Robin reported that HPI has developed a mission statement and mandate and will update their members at AGM on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Diana Teal has stepped down but will remain with HPI as part of fundraising committee. HPI has hired a new admin. person to help Nature Centre staff.

**8. Other Business**

**8.1 – Rules/Regulations regarding relationship between Council and City**

Helen outlined that Parks division and Forestry division make joint decisions within the park regarding operations. Urban Forestry is responsible for natural areas while Helen is responsible for parks areas. It was mentioned that the responsibility for the Terms of Reference from a City perspective is loosely defined. Helen updated the group that the City is meeting with Kevin Bowser and Community Engagement to discuss Terms. Council members expressed serious concern about the lack of support and enforcement of council decision by the City and the need for a voice of authority regarding issues related to council matters. The council advised Helen of their support for her position and also their need for a commitment from the City regarding support for the revised ToR.

**8.2 –AGM postponed from October**

The chair indicated that the AGM will be postponed to allow progress on the facilitated session as it is important for the group dynamic and health of the council that this exercise be successfully completed. Robin will provide an update at the next meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting ends: 8:56pm