



HIGH PARK  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

High Park Community Advisory Council  
Box 108, 95 Lavinia Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6S 3H9

## HPCAC COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Wednesday 6:30 pm

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The regular HPCAC Council Meeting was held at the Howard Park Tennis Club.

### Present were:

Robin Sorys	Member-at-large, Chair
John Cleary	Member-at-large, co-chair K9 committee
Diane Buckell	Member-at-Large
Samuel Zemicael	Office of Councillor Bill Saundercook
Sharon Lovett	Co-chair, Natural Environment Committee
Arthur Beauregard	City of Toronto
Gloria Worth	Park Watch
Laureen Waters	Taiaiko'n Historical Preservation Society
Rastia'ta'nowiha (David Redwell)	Taiaiko'n Historical Preservation Society
Gordon Webster	Rotary Club, High Park – Parkdale
Cheryl Hart	Colborne Lodge
Jerry Hodge	Member-at-large, Chair Building, infrastructure and safety committee
Kim Beemer	Member-at-large, Vice-chair
Bernard Sanders	Member-at-large
Bill Saundercook	Councillor, Ward 13, City of Toronto
Karyn Morris	Member-at-large
Cindy Carroll	Member-at-Large
Paul Wehrle	Member-at-large
Jane Brown	Member-at-Large
Roman Bijan	Member of the public

### Regrets from:

Mark Ellwood	Walking Tour Coordinator
Wendy Rothwell	Toronto Field Naturalists

Robin Sorys took the chair at 6:35 pm

## 1. Introductions/Adoption of Agenda

We went through a round of introductions of all those present.

## 2. Declarations of conflict of interest

None

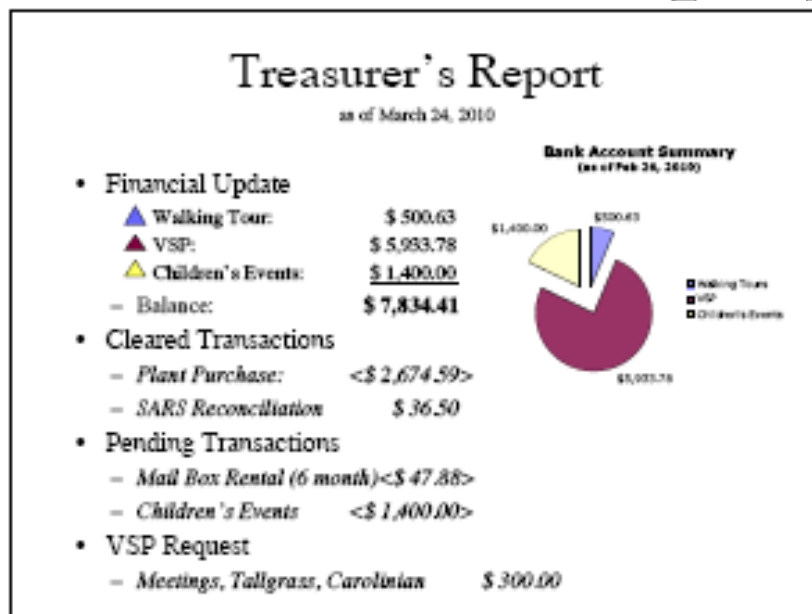
## 3. Minutes of the previous meeting (February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010)

Due to the lateness of posting the minutes to the website, approval of the minutes for Feb 24<sup>th</sup> meeting postponed until April 28<sup>th</sup> HPCAC meeting

## 4. Treasurer's Report

Note: Due to time constraints of some participants, the treasurer's report was given after item 6. New Business, but is shown here for continuity.

Barrie Thomson presented the following treasurer's report.



There was some confusion after the last HPCAC meeting, and the cheque for \$293 that was approved for VSP, pending submission of detailed reporting, was not actually issued. The cheque was issued during the March HPCAC meeting.

There was another discussion of what level of detailed expense reporting is required by the subcommittees.

The terms of reference state that subcommittee expenses must be pre-approved by HPCAC and there is still a difference of opinion as to what this means. Some people feel it means that a categorized budget should be pre-approved for a period of time, e.g., monthly or quarterly.

Some people feel it means the dollar amount of each individual expenditure should be pre-approved.

The general issue remained unresolved.

Arthur offered to mediate in the specific case of the VSP request in order to allow VSP to get the funds needed for their programs.

**Motion:**

Jerry Hodge / Kim Beemer

“Approve a 2 month budget of up to \$800 for VSP. Arthur will work with VSP and the treasurer to ensure that sufficient documentation is provided.”

**Motion carried**

Treasurer’s response to a question in the meeting:

In response to Jane Schmidt’s question regarding the Walking Tours allocation increasing, it was indeed a result of the \$36.50 from the SARS reconciliation as the value in the Feb 24 Treasurer’s Report was \$464.13.

**5. Business arising from the minutes**

**5.1. Update on off-leash area - Arthur Beauregard**

The city has made a public statement saying that there WILL be an off-leash area in High Park. The details of what that will look like will be clarified in May.

Kevin Bowser of the city will meet with the off-leash working group to discuss plans within 1 week.

The next step in the process will be a public meeting to be held at the end of April or early May.

**5.2. Welcome Center Motions – Jerry Hodge**

At the end of February HPCAC, Jerry put forward a series of motions for discussion at this meeting on the issues surrounding the welcome center. See February minutes for the full descriptions.

**Motion:**

Jerry Hodge / Barrie Thomson

“To dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee on the Welcome Centre”

**Motion carried**

**Motion:**

Jerry Hodge

“To clarify relationships between the HPCAC and HPI regarding the Welcome Centre”

Jerry proposes shifting the Welcome Center program from HPCAC to HPI. HPI is able to raise funds and hire staff to support the program. HPI also has its own liability insurance for staff and volunteers.

HPCAC contributes business resources, content and volunteers.

Members believe the mandate of HPI is to focus solely on the Nature Center. If this were to be expanded to include the Welcome Center, the mandate would have to be formally changed.

VSP indicates that, in their experience, running programs in HPCAC that require allocation of monies is cumbersome.

Arthur clarified that according to the city's policy framework, the Welcome Center could be operated under either one of two modes:

1. HPCAC program run through volunteers. These volunteers would then be covered under the city's liability insurance. (See February minutes for discussion of liability)
2. HPI program run at arm's length through the lease agreement between the city and the park.

Jerry will take the concerns back to the HPI and respond to HPCAC at the next meeting.

**Motion not carried**

6:58 pm, Bill Saundercook left the meeting

**5.3. Update on AGM and other City initiatives – Arthur Beauregard**

On behalf of the city, Arthur communicated their priorities as follows: firstly, the off-leash area will be clarified (see item 5.1 above), secondly the city will continue its effort to clarify the HPCAC, and thirdly the city will turn its attention to HPI. The members of the council expressed surprise and disappointment that these initiatives could not proceed concurrently.

Arthur reports that the facilitation process has stalled. The reasons for this remain unclear to the council. Arthur expressed his opinion that there are irreconcilable differences within the HPCAC.

The city is prepared to meet its commitment to hold an AGM in April unless the HPCAC postpones it.

There was a discussion on postponing the AGM.

In regards to the clarification of the Terms of References, it is the council's understanding that as a council we are operating under the revised Terms of References, as passed at our Jan. meeting and supported by Kevin Bowser. According to Arthur's subsequent statements, until the City hands us new Terms of Reference, we operate under the revised terms of reference, with individual matters of interpretation and intent being settled by Arthur using the City's 2004 Terms of References as the basis for his decisions.

Given the confusion in the TOR, the feeling was that holding an election at this time would not be productive.

Motion:

John Cleary / Jane Schmidt

"To postpone the AGM until May with a re-evaluation of the situation in April"

**Motion carried**

## 6. New Business

### 6.1. Proposal for extended license-free fishing

The annual High Park Family Fishing Day will be on July 10, 2010 this year.

Sam Zemicael of Councillor Bill Saundercook's office introduced a plan to extend the license-free fishing in High Park to last through the month of June and July, in association with the annual Family Fishing Day event.

A letter from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) was provided to the HPCAC from the Councillor's office in support of this extended fishing event, see Section 10 Appendix on page 8.

Some concerns were raised regarding the impact that fishing has on wildlife habitats and injuries.

If you have any comments or concerns on this initiative, please forward them to [HPCAC.secretary@highpark.org](mailto:HPCAC.secretary@highpark.org) and they will be passed on for consideration.

## 7. Reports/Updates

### 7.1. High Park Supervisor - Helen Sousa

Helen was not present.

### 7.2. Colborne Lodge - Cheryl Hart

The joint March Break camp with the Nature Centre had gone very well.

We will be co-hosting the annual Spring Egg Fun event with the HPCAC on March 28th.

### 7.3. Built Environment & Safety - Jerry Hodge

March 12, 2010 meeting with Helen Sousa

**Item:** Trails: to organise a meeting with the following in late March to discuss a strategy to evaluate trail upgrading requirements:

Jennifer Gibb and/or designate, (Helen Sousa), Jerry Hodge, Karen Yukich, Sharon Love, John Cleary, Cheryl Hart and/or Robin Salt, Nature Centre staff person to be decided, Jennifer Kawalski, and Robin Sorys.

At the meeting a strategy of investigation will be discussed and launched to permit any of the above persons to walk the existing trails in the park and recommend the following to the Park supervisor:

A) Trail name

B) Trail value – ie recommend to remain open or to close or to move.

C) Trail base structure type – in very good, good, or deteriorated condition.

D) Trail length and terrain it traverses

E) Particular issues with this trail ie width, historical value, grade, current usage, safety.

E) Value of this trail, eg nature interpretation, hiking, walking, cycling, other

E) Suggestions for trail improvement on this trail

Some of the above members have been asked to walk a certain group of trails for the purposes above and make a report. A reporting form and GPS or other method of designation can pinpoint the trail under consideration. The maps Jennifer has provided form the base for the study and should be made available for designated areas in an enlarged form.

Waiting for response from Helen Sousa

**Item:** Parkside slump update and concerns.

The work on the slump has begun. As of April 5th a new manhole is being dug out and built at the base of the slope and the existing pipe under the road is being replaced with a new one. The old pipe was estimated to be 100 years old. The road way will be resupported with tie-backs rather than pylons which would have been a much more expensive and extensive job. A roadway has been dug and gravelled down to the site for the heavy equipment and a few more trees have been taken out there. The site is getting a bit chewed up on top with the heavy equipment loading and turning but the valley looks to be in good shape downstream.

**Item:** Forest School lease and original plans

No action

**Item:** gates and fencing in the dog areas – completion of tasks.

No action until after off-leash working group meeting with Kevin Bowser

**Item:** Lighting in the Grenadier parking lot

The new lighting is now in place.

#### **7.4. Natural Environment Karen - Yukich/Sharon Lovett**

Recent programs include seed cleaning, tree identification in winter, and transplanting.

#### **7.5. K9 Committee - Tammy Reid/John Cleary**

- 1) The committee noted a number of deficiencies in the sign list provided by Helen and the Opportunity and Constrains mapping provide by City. We will be passing along a detailed list to the appropriate individuals. Many members also expressed interest in the trail naming exercise proposed by the BIS committee. We plan on reaching out to the community to find out the most frequently used names in addition to community suggestions for the trails/gates in the off-leash area.
- 2) The committee expressed concerns with the continuing state of a number of the off-leash trails, including the entrance. The load of gravel laid down by staff last year worked very well at the entrance and another load would be appreciated this year, although a long-term drainage solution would be better and more sustainable. The committee is compiling a list of issues/improvements for the park supervisor.
- 3) We continue to receive concerns from the community regarding a purported "Dog Watch" that is trying to organize in High Park. While many of the principles of the group appear in line with the K9 committee and Park Watch, the practices of the group (ie. clandestine patrols, no official relationship with the City, a lack of education or communication, inappropriate targeting specific users, taping park meetings) have raised serious concerns. Attempts to communicate with the group have met with little or no response and the issue has been passed along to City staff and the appropriate authorities. The K9 committee continues to support the

sanctioned Park Watch program as well as calls for additional enforcement by appropriate City departments with High Park for all park users.

#### 7.6. HPI Update – Jerry Hodge

Report from interim HPCAC rep on March HPI meeting

- 4) A group of fund-raising companies has been explored by Judy Malone. The object was to investigate the parameters of their expertise in developing a fund-raising campaign for HPI to assist it in moving past subsistence funding to a stable platform for near-term development. No final decision was taken.
- 5) Angie Begitsch provided and discussed the financial forecast for this year and next.
- 6) Katie Krelove, a Nature Centre Coordinator, reported on issues from the Nature Centre. Decisions taken were a \$500 release of funds for equipment in the near-term and approval for hiring of an additional Nature Interpreter to expand programs in the spring and summer. Katie provided a financial statement of last year's costs and a projection for next year's staff costs. Issues of communication were addressed by agreement to have more input from Nature Centre staff at HPI meetings. The amended summer staff request to Canada Works was for additional three 6-week positions and another for the Welcome Centre. Eight weeks was the original request.
- 7) Judy Malone gave an update on Humber programs that might assist us in understanding High Park demographics and communication possibilities. John Cleary will be working with this group going forward and can give an update on possibilities.
- 8) Diana reported through Robin that there was only one significant grant from the usual agencies this year so far. The recession has had an impact on donors' funding sources. Discussion ensued as to how this funding gap can be filled. Diana continues to work on grants and HPI is actively looking for a new Fundraising Director.
- 9) An item was set for a discussion of Welcome Centre program possibilities for the next HPI meeting in April. Jerry will report on possible Welcome Centre HPI programs to promote the Park's natural environment pending approval from the HPCAC membership for continuance.
- 10) The Board has lost two members. Andrew Young stepped down as Program Director due to family responsibilities and Judy Malone will tender her resignation as Fundraising Director. Discussion ensued about the ways in which these positions could be refilled. Many thanks to the two retirees for their thoughtful volunteer work with HPI.
- 11) John Cleary and Jerry Hodge will organize an information evening for those members of HPCAC who wish to become more informed about the activities of HPI.  
**Note:** Subsequent to the March HPCAC meeting it was decided that the date for this HPI Q&A Session would be Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>. In order to get an idea of the numbers to plan for a venue, if you are interested in attending this session, please send an email to [HPI.secretary@highpark.org](mailto:HPI.secretary@highpark.org).

#### 8. Other Business

No other business.

## 9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be held on April 28, 2010 at the Howard Park Tennis Club at 6:30 pm.

## 10. Appendix – Letter from TRCA in support of extended license-free fishing

The High Park Community Advisory Council (HPCAC) has received notice from the office of Councillor Saundercook of a plan for extended license-free fishing through the months of June and July in High Park, in association with the annual Family Fishing Day Event. The following letter from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), was forwarded to the HPCAC from the Councillor's office in support of this extended fishing event.

The council has yet to endorse this proposal and would like to hear from interested community members regarding their concerns about this event and any potential impact on High Park.

Please forward all your concerns and comments about this event to:

[HPCAC.secretary@highpark.org](mailto:HPCAC.secretary@highpark.org), which will be passed along to the councillor's offices as well as TRCA.

DRAFT

Hi Al,

We are cautiously optimistic in establishing Grenadier Pond as a designated license free fishing area. In terms of fisheries the TRCA has been monitoring Grenadier Pond for several years (1995-2008). There has also been other biophysical parameters investigated including: water quality, sediment quality, aquatic habitat and terrestrial natural heritage. Therefore, over the years we have acquired a reasonable knowledge base. In addition, along the east shoreline the creation of 28 Largemouth bass (*micropterus salmoides*) spawning habitat enhancement features were completed in 2007. Not only do these features enhance spawning habitat within Grenadier Pond but create overall structural complexity. So, from a scientific point of view we see Grenadier Pond as a sustainable fish community with no likely adverse effects being caused by increased fishing pressure.

Historically, Grenadier Pond had a natural connection to Lake Ontario. Fluctuations in lake levels could of flooded the historic beach areas providing for fish passage and inundating Grenadier Pond. Currently this function has ceased essentially creating a fish community confined to Grenadier Pond to live out all their life stage requirements. Grenadier Pond is not considered to be within a floodplain but is regulated under Ontario Regulation 166/06 for development, interference, with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses. Before starting this pilot project some things will need to be considered: catch and release only; signage (rules, interpretive) and strict enforcement through the community or other means (police, MNR), etc.

Lastly, we see this as a pilot project that will potentially bring people to connect with the natural environment and learn to appreciate it. Grenadier Pond may serve as a catalyst exposing our young and older generation living in an urban environment to become aware of the possibility of fishing and the natural beauty found within the GTA.

Thank You,

Mike Correa  
Environmental Technician  
Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects  
Restoration Services Division  
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority