

PORT COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING NOTES

Date: September 16, 2021

Location: Westin Halifax, Harbour Suite A&B

Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Chairperson: Sara Colburne

Coordinators: Rebecca Bruce & Carrie Blenkhorn, Halifax Port Authority (HPA)

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Sarah Craig
- Pam Glode-Desrochers
- Magali Grégoire
- Cathy McCarthy
- Ossama Nasrallah

Guest Presenters:

- Sara Napier, United Way

HPA Representative: Krista Dempsey, VP of Real Estate

Apologies :

- Jeff Hutt, Wayne Mason, Dov Bercovici, Sarah Austin, Wendy Fraser, Juanita Peters and Captain Allan Gray

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Check-in with Members

- Back to the Sea touch tank will have its last weekend September 18-19 and then will be closed for the season. Tidal Trekkers program will be taking place this fall.
- McNabs Island beach clean-up is happening Sunday, September 19. Tickets for the McNabs Island Fall Foliage tours this October are now available.
- Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre has partnered with Develop NS to host a series of events on the Halifax waterfront from September 30-October 2 to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Schedule: September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, October 1 is Treaty Day, and October 2 is Family Day.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Chair will be seeking a new member over the coming months. HPA is working on a social media campaign to help promote the opportunity.

3. PORT REPORT

Krista Dempsey, Vice President, Real Estate, HPA

- Safety and Environment Report: since last meeting HPA has had five safety incidents/misses; two minor injuries, one near miss and two minor property damage. No environmental incidents reported.
- Port of Halifax is welcoming a new direct call with India. MSC is the carrier providing this service and this will be the first direct call between the West Coast of India and a Canadian port.
- Cunard Centre: The Cunard Centre in the Halifax Seaport District will no longer operate as an event space. This is due to challenges associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. RCR Hospitality Group, which has operated the Cunard Centre since its inception in 2006, will continue to work with the Halifax Port Authority and provide catering services for the Halifax Seaport District. In addition, roof repairs are being done to the building and expected completion is January 2022.
- EOI for the PIER Shopfronts: HPA has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) seeking experienced operators to lease The Pier shop fronts. The EOI will close on October 22, 2021.

4. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

"Building Inclusivity & Equity in our Port City and Exploring how Corporates Can Influence Change"

Sarah Napier, President & CEO, United Way

- Presentation focused on the realities of poverty in our city and the way we can take action to make a difference in our city.
- United Way Halifax's mission is to bring people together, including donors, volunteers and partners, to create lasting social change. They do so by investing leadership, time and funds towards critical community-based programming, partnerships, and sector capacity building, and by doing all we can to bring our voice and influence on issues that matter most.
- Discussions had about the importance of having empathy and understanding when speaking about homelessness.
- Exploring how corporates can influence changes through Education, Effort, Investment, Purpose and Policy.

5. WORKSHOP

Community Initiatives Fund Overview

Feedback Question: What key criteria or elements would you recommend?

- HPA is looking to update their Community Initiatives Fund policy. HPA currently supports organizations in the local community doing fundraising, charitable donations, Halifax Seaport events, etc. Committee members discussed the way that they have seen other grant applications worded or processes for consideration by HPA. They asked how this program aligns with the Port's sustainability strategy and the diversity and inclusion strategy.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting: November 18, 2021