

PORT COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Wooden Monkey Dartmouth - Banquet Room
Chairperson: Sara Colburne
Coordinators: Lane Farguson & Carrie Blenkhorn, Halifax Port Authority (HPA)

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Sarah Craig
- Cathy McCarthy
- Waye Mason
- Ossama Nasrallah
- Juanita Peters
- Hisham Hamdan

Guests:

- Chris MacDonald, Environmental Manager
- Tyler Boutilier, Urban Planning Intern

HPA Representative:

- Captain Allan Gray, President and CEO

Regrets:

- Dov Bercovici
- Wendy Fraser
- Magali Grégoire
- Pamela Glode-Desrochers

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- Welcome by Chair, Sara Colburne and introduction of new member, Hisham
- Introduction of HPA guests, Chris MacDonald and Tyler Boutilier
- The chair acknowledged the one-year anniversary for committee members and thanked those who have chosen to continue for a second term. Jeff Hutt and Sarah Austin have stepped down from the committee.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS

Check-in with Members:

- Housing update from the city from Councillor Mason. Modulars home unit will be coming soon to Dartmouth in Alderney area. Additionally, single room occupancy (approx. 21 units) located on Pepperell Street in Halifax and the Travel Lodge in north Dartmouth is being renovated and converted to provide supportive housing. Happy to share that approximately 120 units coming to HRM for the homeless.
- The Friends of McNab's Island held two beach clean ups, in September and October. A lot of garbage was cleaned up, a lot of fisheries debris (ghost gear). The clean ups were successful and cleared

approximately 8 tonnes of garbage, 1000 bags were collected. A grant from DFO was given to help with the clean up efforts.

- Africville Museum reopened in early July, and happy to share that the visitor numbers are higher than pre-pandemic. “A Walk Through Africville” exhibit is on display at the Halifax Convention Centre until December 16.
- Ossama Nasrallah has been appointed to the Board of Directors for United Way Halifax.

3. PORT REPORT

Captain Allan Gray, President & CEO, HPA

- Sara Colborne presented to the HPA Board of Directors to provide an update on what the PCLC has been up to this past year; information was well-received.
- Safety & Environment Incident Report: No HPA employee incidents but overall, four safety incidents (three near misses and one hazardous occurrence with contractors and tenants). One environmental incident which was a minor fuel spill from a customer truck.
- The PIER at the Seaport: Grand opening November 25 which includes a smudging ceremony followed by speeches and a discussion panel. Founding partners will start to move in before the official launch with programs taking place on both November 24th and 25th for members and partners. EOI for leasing opportunities at the PIER has closed. HPA had interest and plans to have a mix of cafes, restaurants, and retail offering local products. Hoping to have spaces filled in the early new year. Joint Operations Centre within The PIER is almost complete which includes HPA, CN and PSA Halifax.
- Cargo Activity – Containerized cargo dipped slightly in Q3, down about 11%. This is a result of supply chain challenges and disruptions. However, the year-to-date numbers are up. There are no fluidity problems in Halifax, but blockages elsewhere are making arrivals unpredictable. It has been difficult to predict what is happening currently with cargo. HPA predicts 2021 to be a successful year overall.
- Cruise Outlook – In 2019 Halifax saw 179 vessel calls. HPA expects 2022 will see about 85% of 2019. Still a good number of ships but what is not yet clear is the allowable volume of passengers on the ships. As confidence returns to the industry, the cruise lines have seen sales increasing. HPA is working with Public Health Agency of Canada, provincial health authorities, and Transport Canada to make sure there is consistency amongst Atlantic provinces. Atlantic Canada Cruise Association (ACCA) and the Port of Halifax are working with stakeholders for the safe resumption of cruise.
- Real Estate – Options for Cunard Centre vacancy still being explored. Working to determine if the Halifax Seaport Farmers’ Market can occupy space within the former Cunard Centre year-round instead of moving outside in the warmer months. One tenant is confirmed for the PIER retail space and will open later this month, underway with other potential tenants.
- PortControl – PortControl System is an investment in digital infrastructure that will improve process for invoicing and statistics, drive efficiencies across the Port of Halifax, and improve the Port’s collective impact on the environment. Training phase with external users is underway now and it is going well.
- Atlantic Hydrogen Alliance – The Port is a key player for number of reasons. To get big ships onto hydrogen fuels HPA needs to work with suppliers and industry to encourage to ships to convert. Actively working with groups to accelerate the development, production, use and export of green hydrogen. HPA will utilize the PIER for this project and look at retrofitting ships, something no one has done yet. Green hydrogen is a potential game changer in terms of decreasing cargo shipping and cruise emissions. Planning to start with a small-scale project first; looking at hydrogen for use in

landside vehicles. The goal is to use green hydrogen to develop a green port.

4. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION & WORKSHOP

Presentation by Chris MacDonald, Environmental Manager, HPA

- Update on Sustainability Initiatives the Port has been working on. Discussion around why it's necessary for the Port to develop a sustainability framework and why it's important to include community feedback. A survey was issued to HPA employees, Port partners and the larger community; HPA collected information to determine what sustainability topics (based on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, or UNSDGs) people feel are important for the Port to focus on. Good engagement from the community (almost 600 responses). The presentation compared responses from all three groups; to determine the six sustainable development goals HPA will focus on, the results of all three groups were incorporated as determined through the survey results.

Question/Answer & Workshop

What about other Canadian Ports, what are they doing?

- HPA is the only one that has gone through this exercise so far. We will be sharing the results with our fellow Canadian ports.

Do we know where the respondents are from?

- We targeted local HRM communities and various age ranges. Responses were from across HRM.

Feedback Workshop Question: What do you see as next steps coming out of these survey results?

- A. Publish and communicate these results and explain what is being done to achieve and advance sustainable development goals. Note that HPA already strives for continuous improvement through its Environmental Management System (EMS), and this needs to be done with sustainability initiatives as well.
- B. Match HPA's sustainable development goals to Port planning and projects.
- C. Match HPA's sustainable development goals to UNSTGs.
- D. Clear communication. UNSTGs are complicated, therefore it is important that HPA find stories, local examples and people who can make the goals and information relevant to everyone, and explain why this is important for everyone, not just the port community.
- E. Survey design is a big challenge that the municipality also comes up against, especially during the COVID pandemic, and we are all learning as we go.
- F. Could round table discussions in certain communities be helpful? Yes, it's a good way to explain and engage with people. In a pre-COVID world ideally, we would have done pop-ups and in person events to promote this survey.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 7:15 p.m.

Next meeting: January 20, 2021