

Landscape of Grand Pre Incorporated - Le Paysage de Grand-Pre Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday June 6 2017

Offices of McInnes Cooper, 1969 Upper Water Street, Halifax, NS

In attendance:

Allister Surette, Chair

Claude DeGrâce, Societe Nationale de l'Acadie

Geraldine Arsenault, Parks Canada

Beverly Palmetter, Grand Pre Marsh Body

Justin Mury, Societe Promotion Grand-Pre

Marilyn Perkins, Glooscap First Nation

Mark Bannerman -Province Nova Scotia

Anne Curry - Grand Pre and Area Community Association

Regrets:

' Peter Muttart - Municipality of Kings County

1. Welcome and call to order

The Chair welcomed the directors and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were modified or added to the agenda

- a) Item 8, was moved to the end of the meeting (as Geraldine Arsenault will excuse herself from the meeting for these discussions)
- b) Item 10, add: Terms of directors
- c) Item 11, add: Next steps; Secondary Road Conditions; Reporting to UNESCO; Request for Information.

The adoption of the modified agenda was *moved* by Justin Mury and seconded by Claude DeGrâce

Vote: Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes - March 1st, 2017

The adoption of the minutes was moved by Beverly Palmetter and seconded by Marilyn Perkins.

Vote: Motion carried

4. Business arising from the Minutes:

- a) Financial Review Engagement. Beverly Palmetter will follow up with Tami McEvoy and Helen Woodward.

- b) Dissolution of the Landscape of Grand-Pre Society (LGPS). Claude DeGrâce reports that the financial papers are currently with the Auditors. As for the process, once the audit is done, then the LGPS will inform Landscape of Grand-Pre Inc. that it is ready to transfer its assets. The LGP Inc. must inform LGPS of its official mailing address. The LGP Inc. must then send a letter to inform the LGPS and Province of NS that it accepts this transfer.

Questions pertaining to signs (repair and /or replacement) were brought up. It was decided that the LGP Inc. would address once the transfer was complete, as presently the Corporation does not have the authority to conduct work on these assets.

5. Financial Report:

Beverly Palmetter presented the two financial reports for the corporation: from December 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017; and the report from April 1st to June 5th 2017.

It was suggested that the line item "Review of Governance Framework" should be renamed "Development of a Governance Framework". Beverly Palmetter will amend and send amended version for the minutes.

6. Proposal from the Societe Promotion Grand-Pre

Justin Mury and Claude DeGrâce, as chair and ED for the SPGP presented a proposition to the board of the LGP Inc. for to a potential collaboration in regards of marketing, promotion, branding and creating an "Experience Grand-Pre" strategy not only for the National Historic Site but also for the greater World Heritage Site. This would prevent duplication of promotion efforts, while streamlining expertise already acquired by the SPGP. They are looking for a commitment of \$40K or 50% of the Promotion budget. (See April 20th 2017 letter from SPGP).

Justin Mury and Claude DeGrâce excused themselves from the meeting room while a discussion took place with remaining board directors.

The following response was shared with representatives from the SPGP once the discussion was completed:

The Board of the Landscape of Grand-Pré Inc. is in support, in principle, of the proposition. However, further discussions are required regarding human and financial resources. The Chair will further explore this opportunity with the Société Promotion Grand-Pré.

7. Hiring of an Executive Director (Gerald Walsh)

Below are the main points from Gerald Walsh's report regarding the search of an Executive Director.

- The profile type of the candidate (i.e. person with experience in Heritage protection such as a former park employee) is difficult to find.
- He received responses from 10 candidates, two of which could be considered qualified according to the required skill set. However, one requested a higher pay grade than what the Corporation was willing to pay and the other did not meet language requirements set out by the sub-committee.
- There are two choices for the Board: either accept to raise the salary to the rate required by the top candidate, or lower language (French abilities) requirements for candidate number two.

Following a discussion on the topic, the Board decided on its strategy and gave the following direction to Mr. Walsh:

- Open the staffing process for a second round.
- Reduce the language requirements to capacity in oral French be considered an asset.
- Keep the same salary range as initially agreed.
- Mr. Walsh to return to Chair and staffing sub-committee with results.

8. Request from Organizing Committee - Grand-Pre 2017

- A letter was received from Marie-Claude Rioux, ED of la FANE, requesting a sponsorship from the Landscape of Grand-Pre Inc. for the Celebratory event in August.
- It was a sponsorship request with various opportunities to promote the LGP Inc.

Action: The Chair will respond by indicating that the LGP Inc. is still in the phase of establishing its governance structure and will respectfully decline the offer of sponsorship as the current circumstances do not lend themselves to respond positively to this request.

9. Correspondence - Landowners Association of the Grand-Pre World Heritage Site

A discussion took place regarding the Landowners Association's letter dated May 5th 2017 that was circulated prior to the meeting requesting holding meetings open to the public as a commitment to openness and transparency.

Following this discussion, it was decided the Board would respond that "... the Board is committed to openness and transparency. Once the Corporation hires and executive director, approved minutes and key documents will be posted on a website. As for the meetings of the Board, the Board will consider making them public in the future, but not at the present time. The Board is still in the stages of working on a governance framework, including a Board governance policy, terms of reference for its committees and a communication policy. The Board will do its best in the absence of staff to communicate regularly ..."

Action: The Chair will respond to this letter.

10. AGM - Landscape of Grand-Pre Inc.

Clarifications were given on the terms of various directors. This will be confirmed with Danielle Daigle (McInnes Cooper).

The AGM is required to be held by July 22nd, 2017.

11. Other

ICOMOS

Allister Surette informed the Board about his participation at ICOMOS's meeting which included representatives of a number of World Heritage Sites in Canada. He indicated that many of the sites had a simplified governance model as they consisted of mostly public lands administered by Parks Canada.

Communications

The Board agreed that it should proceed as soon as possible with the development of a communications policy. Mr. Surette will contact McInnes Cooper regarding this matter.

Request for Information

A request for information regarding the Landscape of Grand Pre Inc. was discussed. It was agreed that the Province of Nova Scotia would respond according to its policies and practices.

Report to UNESCO

It was noted that the last report to UNESCO was prepared in October 2014. The next report will not be required before 2019 and Parks Canada normally coordinates this reporting requirement.

Road Conditions Within the Landscape of Grand Pre

The Board was informed about the poor condition of some public roads within the Landscape of Grand Pre WHS. It was agreed to draft a letter to the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation. The letter will inform the Department about the condition of the roads, especially the East Long Island Road leading to the guzzle. The letter will note the importance of good public road maintenance within the World Heritage Site especially during Canada's 150th anniversary.

Election of Officers

The Board made the decision to elect directors to vacant officer positions.

Allister Surette was confirmed as Chair.

Moved by Justin Mury, seconded by Claude DeGrâce, that Beverly Palmeter be elected to the position of Vice-Chair/Treasurer.

Vote: Motion carried.

Moved by Claude DeGrâce, seconded by Mark Bannerman, that Géraldine Arsenault be elected to the position of Secretary.

Vote : Motion carried.

The Board agreed that it would be a good idea to develop a newsletter for a mail out distribution to the Grand Pré and Area community.

Beverly Palmeter agreed to follow up with Kent & Duffett regarding the preparation of a Review Engagement of the financial statements of the Corporation.

12. Request from Jonathan Fowler, Associate Professor of Archaeology, SMU

The Board discussed Mr. Fowler's correspondence regarding the planned closure of Parks Canada Agency's Archaeology Laboratory in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and the transfer the facility's archaeology collection, historical objects collection, and staff to Gatineau, Quebec.

While there were various perspectives expressed, it was agreed that it was not the role of the Board to provide a position regarding this matter. The Board agreed, however, to write a letter expressing that the planned relocation of the Archaeology Laboratory should not have any negative impact on the conservation of the collection, or its accessibility and use for interpretive or research purposes. It was also noted that the planned relocation should not generate additional costs for the Landscape of Grand Pré to access the collection.

13. Adjournment

The Board agreed that a date for the next meeting would be established once some progress had been made regarding the staffing of the Executive Director position.

Moved by Justin Mury, seconded by Marilyn Perkins, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.