



**Public Meeting of Council
Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel – 75 Kent Street**

Mayor Clifford Lee presiding

Present: **Deputy Mayor Stu MacFadyen** **Councillor Melissa Hilton**
 Councillor Cecil Villard **Councillor Terry Bernard**
 Councillor Mitchell Tweel **Councillor Jason Coady**
 Councillor Edward Rice

Also: **Donna Waddell, DCS** **Sue Fraser, PRM**
 Nancy McMinn, PS **Frank Quinn, PC**
 Christopher Drummond, APC **Wayne Long, EDO**

Regrets: **Councillor Rob Lantz** **Councillor David MacDonald**
 Councillor Danny Redmond **Roy Main, CAO**
 Phil Handrahan, DFDS

1. Malpeque Folk Festival Inc. Proposal – National Folk Festival in Victoria Park

Mayor Clifford Lee welcomed members of the public to the meeting and acknowledged MLA Robert Mitchell in the audience.

The Mayor noted that the purpose of the meeting is to hear a proposal from Rob Oakie of the Malpeque Folk Festival Inc on an event in Victoria Park as required under the Victoria Park Bylaw.

The Mayor called upon the Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department to introduce the presenter.

Sue Fraser, Manager of Parks and Recreation introduced Mr. Oakie and reiterated that the purpose of the meeting is as per Section 6 of the Victoria Park Bylaw that requires a public consultation on anything considered a major event in Victoria Park.

Mr. Oakie took the floor and presented an overview of the National Folk Festival and the site plan that the organizers would want to use for that event. Following his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Oakie opened the floor to questions.

John Morris spoke to the new events venue and expressed concern as to why this event should not go there and the fact that City money went in to build this and it should be used. He also noted that it was built for an organization that no longer exists (Tourism Charlottetown Inc.) Mr. Oakie noted that the events venue does not have the right kind of ambiance for an event of this nature as there are a number of stages in the folk festival set up and that would not work at that kind of site.

The Mayor also clarified that the City did not invest in the events venue, as it was a product of the Charlottetown Area Development Corporation.

Peter Rukavina spoke about the importance of not setting up walls in public spaces where people have to pay to access them. He noted that he is a folk festival fan but he cannot support this event in Victoria Park for that reason.

Scott Brown asked Mr. Oakie if he knew about the Victoria Park Restoration Plan and if this festival was going to be consistent with that plan and address all of the protection issues.

Mr. Oakie indicated it is their intention to be good stewards of the Park.

Greg McKee raised a question concerning a plan for inclement weather and also proposed that the event be split with day time events in Victoria Park and night time events being at the events grounds.

Mr. Oakie indicated that folk festivals typically happen in all kinds of weather and that there is never an issue. He also stated that having two venues would drive up the costs as they would have to duplicate all services.

Becky Viau noted that Victoria Park is meant for activities like Art in the Open which is open to the public and free. She expressed concern about walking around the park and that any damage would affect regular users - post event. She also expressed concern regarding the fencing and did not feel that Victoria Park was the right site for an event of this magnitude.

Stella Newman stated that she appreciated the outside lane remaining open and asked if the event would be an annual one. She also asked about the nature of music and its impact on the neighbourhood. She inquired about the numbers and what the charges would be. She stated that the park is too beautiful to be used for this kind of use and it will open the doors to similar events in this park. She noted that if this happen it should be a temporary permit.

Mr. Oakie indicated he hopes the festival becomes an annual event. He further indicated that the sound bleed will be minimal and the event could handle up to 10,000 visitors per day. The charge for the event would be around \$100 for the full three day event or \$35-55 per day and children under 12 are free.

Roger Greaves commented on all the past events that took place in Victoria Park. He thought this was a great idea and it was just a matter of applying some rules and regulations. He noted that

Mr. Oakie was very professional and would do a great job. He believed that this kind of event is completely different from any other music events.

Candace Woodside stated that she thought this was a great event and considered it very positive. She congratulated Mr. Oakie on bringing this to Charlottetown and stated she believed any obstacles can be overcome.

Serge Bernard stated that he was a bluegrass musician and he has never seen any issues with past event from past experiences. He said that folk festival goers have a sense of ownership in this type of event and is based on respect for the property. He indicated this event is a great idea.

The Mayor asked if there were any other questions. Councillor Tweel raised a question regarding the cycling lane being closed and if there would be alcohol served.

Mr. Oakie confirmed there would be a beverage tent and it would be closely monitored for consumption and that the cycling lane is closed to ensure a safe environment for all festival goers.

The Mayor thanked all members of the public for their input and advised that this matter will go back to the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Activities Committee and then to Council for a decision.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm