

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

July 18, 2005

PRESENT:

Gus "Warren" Reed, Vice Chair
Councillor Gary Meade
Joeanne Coffey
Terry Myer
Betty Macdonald
Lynn DeMont
Mary Newcombe
Jen Powley
Mary Wallworth

REGRETS

Councillor Patrick Murphy
Patrick Harrington, Chair
Nancy Mann
Jeff Wall
Meredith Hutchings

STAFF & OTHERS:

Ms. Charla Williams, Co-ordinator, Diversity Program
Ms. Jana Delaney, Interpreter
Ms. Karina Burris, Interpreter
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 16, 2005

Amendment:

6.1 Add the names of the members who resigned.

MOVED BY Ms. Coffey, seconded by Councillor Meade that the minutes of May 16, 2005 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Legislative Assistant advised the Committee that Ms. Cathy Cranridge resigned from the Committee.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Addition:

8.2. Metro Link/Accessible Low Floor Bus

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Powley that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Impact Training Session

Councillor Meade advised that six Councillors participated in the Impact Training Session. He further advised that another session will be conducted in the fall. The workshop will be held on a Tuesday morning as more Councillors will be available to participate.

Ms. Williams advised the Committee that in future, if there is a change of plans that the appropriate persons are notified. She further commented that the intent of the workshop was for the participants to experience what it was like as a person with a disability on a personal level.

In response to Ms. Coffey, Ms. Williams commented that if HRM were to conduct an accessibility audit of its facilities it would invite persons with disabilities to participate and that members of the Committee would be invited.

The Committee agreed to leave the item on the status sheet and have the Chair clarify the purpose of the workshop. The Legislative Assistant advised that the Chair is aware of the issues that were raised.

4.1.2 Gas Stations

The Vice - Chair advised the Committee that Regional Council approved the recommendation to send a letter to the Nova Scotia Retail Gasoline Dealers Association of Nova Scotia to express concern with the growing trend toward Self Service Gas Stations. The Legislative Assistant has advised that a response has not been received.

Councillor Meade advised that 13 Councillors contributed to the Westmount Playground and that the first phase is about to begin. He further advised that HRM received a Canadian Paraplegic Association Award.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Universal Accessibility Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Loading Doors

The Vice Chair advised the Committee that Councillor Fougere had requested that the Committee review the Ferry Terminal for Universal Accessibility, in particular the doors.

Ms. Williams asked if this was sent to staff. The Legislative Assistant advised that the Committee had requested more clarification from the Bikeways Advisory Committee. In response to that request the Bikeways Advisory Committee had clarified that the doors inside the ferry terminals that lead to the ferry are difficult to open.

MOVED by Ms. Powley, seconded by Ms. Macdonald that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities refer this item to staff and request that a report be provided to the Bikeways Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Tactile Warning Strips - July 5, 2005

No discussion

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

8.1 New Business

8.1.1 Review of Terms of Reference

- A copy of the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities Terms of Reference was before the Committee for review.

Committee Members raised concern over the remaining items on the agenda and asked for clarification. The Legislative Assistant advised that the items came from the Chair and that no further information was provided.

A discussion ensued and the following comments were made:

- The Committee needs to focus on issues that the Committee can move forward.
- The distinction between action and advisory needs to be clarified.
- The statistics indicate that NS has more persons with disabilities than any other province and yet it does not have a disability act.

Ms. Williams commented that some issues can be dealt with individually and not be brought to the Committee. Some issues result from not thinking about the impact on persons with disabilities and can be easily rectified by contacting the appropriate HRM staff person. There is a level of individual responsibility. The Committee should be discussing broader issues such as pavement cuts and security.

The Committee agreed to defer items 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.4, 8.1.5 and recommended that the Legislative Assistant contact the Chair and seek clarification of these items and what has priority. Further, that the Legislative Assistant e-mail the Committee members with the response in order for the Committee Members to prepare for the discussion at the next meeting.

8.1.1.1 Roles

This item was deferred.

8.1.1.2 Membership

A discussion regarding the membership of the Committee and the calculation of quorum ensued.

The Legislative Assistant advised that the minimum membership for the Committee is eight residents and two councillors, there is no maximum. The Membership Selection Committee appointed more than the minimum required and therefore, the quorum is based on the number of persons appointed. She further advised that at the last meeting the Committee agreed to replace the Committee Members who resigned and which increases the quorum requirement. She further advised that unless otherwise specified in the Committee's Terms of Reference, quorum is fifty percent, plus one as per Administrative Order One.

Ms. Macdonald gave notice of motion that at the next regular scheduled meeting she will bring forward a motion to recommend that the terms of reference of the Committee be amended to provide that the quorum for the Committee be set at six.

8.1.2 Principal Issues

This item was deferred.

8.1.3 Review of Principal Accomplishments

This item was deferred.

8.1.4 Communication with Council

This item was deferred.

8.1.5 Communication with Staff

This item was deferred.

8.2 ADDED ITEMS

8.2.1 Metro Link/Accessible Low Floor Bus

Ms. Coffey suggested that Mr. Larry Hilton be invited to a meeting to explain how the buses are going to fit within the current system. The Committee agreed that a presentation was not necessary as Metro Transit has had discussions with the Accessible Transportation Committee.

In response to Ms. Coffey, Ms Williams advised that seat belts are required on the buses as there are liability issues and that HRM must meet the requirements of provincial legislation.

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - August 15, 2005

10. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant