

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

March 16, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Mary Wile
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Mr. Kevin Peppard
Mr. Tom Boyd
Mr. Gary Russell
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Ms. Johanne Caron
Ms. Mildred Colburn

REGRETS: Councillor Jerry Blumenthal

STAFF: Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by Councillor Wile in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

1.1 Introduction of Committee Members

This being the first meeting of the Committee since Regional Council made new appointments, Councillor Wile led the Committee in roundtable introductions.

Councillor Wile noted that Councillor Blumenthal provided regrets for this meeting; and Supt. Cliff Falkenham also provided regrets.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by Ms. Coffey, seconded by Mr. Russell that the minutes of November 17, 2008 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Addition:

Information Item: Portable Pool Lift at Cole Harbour Place (Joanne Coffey)

MOVED by Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Ms. McFadyen that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING:

4.1 Discussion on Regular Monthly Meeting Date/Time, and Format for Agenda Packages (i.e. electronically or regular mail delivery)

Councillor Wile asked the Committee members if the regular meeting date/time of the third Monday of each month, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. was suitable for everyone.

Mr. Russell advised that the third Monday was fine, but he would prefer 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., however, he could still attend the meeting if it were held from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Mildred Colburn and Ms. Johanne Caron advised that moving the time to 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. may pose a problem because they work full time, and it would be difficult getting away from the office any earlier.

Councillor Wile noted that she and Councillor Blumenthal both have other meetings scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday, therefore, they will have to leave the ACPD meeting early if it is from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Following a brief discussion, **it was agreed** that this matter would be deferred to the next meeting. Councillor Wile advised that she would check with Councillor Blumenthal when he returns in regard to any meeting conflicts on the third Monday of the month.

4.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councillor Wile called for nominations for Chair.

Ms. Newcombe nominated Ms. Helen McFadyen for Chair; Ms. McFadyen accepted the nomination.

Mr. Russell nominated Ms. Mildred Colburne for Chair; Ms. Colburne accepted the nomination.

Ms. McFadyen and Ms. Colburne retired from the room and a secret ballot was carried out by the Legislative Assistant.

Following a counting of the ballots; Ms. McFadyen and Ms. Colburne returned to the meeting, and the Legislative Assistant advised that Ms. McFadyen was elected Chair for 2009.

Ms. McFadyen then assumed the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Ms. Coffey nominated Ms. Mary Newcombe for Vice Chair. Ms. Newcombe declined the nomination.

Ms. Coffey nominated Mr. Tom Boyd for Vice Chair; Mr. Boyd accepted the nomination.

The Chair called three times for further nominations; there being none, the Chair declared Mr. Boyd as Vice Chair.

4.3 Terms of Reference (Joeanne Coffey)

Ms. Coffey advised that she brought this matter forward because the Committee has a representative on the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee but has not specified a timeline for the appointment.

A discussion ensued, and Mr. Russell noted that this Committee has been asked in the past to provide representatives to other Committees of Council. He suggested that if the Committee was going to establish a limited term for the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, then it should do the same for any other Committee in which ACPD provides a representative.

The Chair suggested that when making appointments to other Committees, there should be a limited term.

Councillor Wile pointed out that usual practice with Regional Council when making

Committee appointments is that they appoint for a two-year term.

MOVED by Ms. McFadyen, seconded by Mr. Boyd that the Committee's Terms of Reference be amended to reflect that any appointments of members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to other Committees of Regional Council, be for a one year term. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The motion was put and passed, with Mr. Russell opposing the motion.

4.4 Committee Appointment Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (Joanne Coffey)

MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Ms. Newcombe that Mr. Gary Russell be appointed as the Committee's representative to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee for a period of one year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.5 Active Transportation Advisory Committee - ACPD Representation

Information pertaining to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee was submitted. The Terms of Reference request that an appointee be designated from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

The Chair asked if there were any members who wanted to volunteer to sit on the Committee.

A discussion ensued and **it was agreed** that the Committee would require more information on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee prior to making an appointment. The Chair advised that she would attend the first meeting, scheduled for April 1, 2009, and report back at the next meeting at which time a formal appointment will be made.

4.6 Status Report - Disbursement of Accessibility Funds (Phil Townsend)

For the information of the new members, the Chair provided background information on the Accessibility Funds that Regional Council have made available to the Committee, for the purpose of increasing accessibility in HRM buildings and sites. She advised that Mr. Phil Townsend has been the staff contact for the Committee on this fund, and he researches and follows up on the Committee's recommendations.

The Chair made reference to the submitted information item regarding the lift at Cole Harbour Place and noted that this was one example of how the funds have been used.

The Chair advised that Mr. Townsend was unable to attend today's meeting, however he will be invited to the next meeting to provide an update to the Committee.

Mr. Boyd pointed out that he heard the Municipality took over the Spryfield Arena recently and he questioned if anyone had further information on this matter.

Mr. Rutt concurred that HRM has taken over the Spryfield Arena, which had been previously managed by the Lions Club. He added that he would follow up on this and find out who the staff contact is, and will report back to the Committee.

5. **DEFERRED BUSINESS:** None.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

6.1 **Correspondence:**

6.1.1 **Alliance for Equality of Blind Persons - Request for Presentation (referred to ACPD)**

A letter dated February 16, 2009 from Darlene Wournell, Secretary of the AEBC HRM Chapter, was submitted.

The Legislative Assistant advised that the letter, which was requesting approval to make a presentation to Regional Council on the issues of Metro Transit discontinuing the free bus passes for the blind, deaf-blind and partially blind in HRM, was originally sent to the Mayor, however, it has since been referred to this Committee.

In response to a question, the Legislative Assistant explained that the request went to the Agenda Review Committee, a Committee comprised of the Mayor and senior staff to set the agenda for the Council meetings. At the Agenda Review Committee meeting, a decision was made to forward the request to this Committee.

A brief discussion ensued and the general consensus of the Committee was that the matter should be referred back and dealt with by Regional Council as was originally requested.

MOVED by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Ms. Caron that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities refer the request back to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. **REPORTS:**

7.1 **Taxi and Limousine Driver's Industry Guide - Draft Status (Helen McFadyen)**

The Chair advised that she and Ms. Coffey worked with the Taxi and Limousine Committee in regard to a Guide for Taxi Drivers in HRM, particularly, matters that taxi drivers should be cognizant of when dealing with passengers who have disabilities.

The Chair advised that she would send the Legislative Assistant a copy of what has been done to date, to be circulated to the Committee.

At 5:39 p.m. Councillor Wile advised that she had another meeting in which she had to attend, and excused herself from the meeting.

8. ADDED ITEMS:

8.1. Information Item - Portable Pool Lift at Cole Harbour Place

An article by Joanne Oostveen, *The Weekly News* concerning the installation of an \$8,000 portable pool lift at Cole Harbour Place, from funds recommended by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was submitted for information.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 20, 2009.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning the Chair asked the members if they would prefer receiving their agenda packages via e-mail or in the regular mail.

Ms. McFadyen, Mr. Boyd, Ms. Caron, and Mr. Rutt requested that their agenda package be sent through e-mail.

Mr. Russell and Ms. Newcombe requested that their agenda package be sent through regular mail.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant