

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES
October 18, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair
Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Mr. Troy Nauffts
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Mr. Jack Jones
Mr. Brian Aird

REGRETS: Mr. Gary Russell
Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management

STAFF: Supt. Cliff Falkenham, HRP
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 20, 2010.....	3
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS	3
4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
4.1 Discussion re: HRM Ferry Service Evacuation/Safety Protocol for Staff when Assisting Persons with Disabilities	3
4.2 Discussion re: Visit to HRM Four Pad Arena	4
4.3 2010 Work Plan (<i>verbal update</i>).....	5
5. NEW BUSINESS	6
5.1 Review of Taxi Driver Handout: About Persons with Disabilities	6
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE	6
7. REPORTS – NONE	6
8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE.....	6
9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 15, 2010.....	6
10. ADJOURNMENT	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Duke Room 1, 3rd Floor, Duke Tower.

Mr. Tom Boyd led the Committee in round table introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 20, 2010

Ms. Theresa Horwill requested the following amendments:

- Page 5, second last paragraph - that Councillor Wile, *Ms. Horwill* and Mr. Nauffts would meet with staff to provide their input on the new terminal
- Page 7, second paragraph to be omitted

Mr. Brian Aird entered the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Mary Wile, seconded by Mr. Jack Jones, that the September 20, 2010 minutes be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, seconded by Ms. Theresa Horwill, that the Order of Business be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS

4.1 Discussion re: HRM Ferry Service Evacuation/Safety Protocol for Staff when Assisting Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Helen McFadyen requested an update from staff regarding HRM's ferry evacuation and safety protocol when assisting persons with disabilities and other passengers who require assistance (ie. wheelchairs, baby carriages, small children). She indicated that she had previously requested that service dogs be included as part of staff's head count policy during boarding and unloading of the ferries. Ms. McFadyen suggested that information sessions be held with various accessibility groups to identify passenger needs, promote safety awareness and assist with staff/passenger training.

Ms. Rebecca Keen, Supervisor, Ferry Operations, Transportation and Public Works and Ms. Tiffany Chase, Coordinator, Marketing & Communication, Transportation and Public Works, noted the following points:

- most of HRM's ferry emergencies would be addressed by transiting to the dock
- the ferry's operations manual identifies generalized emergencies; it is difficult to predict the range of emergencies that could arise
- there are four crewmembers on each ferry for every 300 passengers; the maximum passenger capacity is 390; additional crew can be added if needed

- each crewmember is assigned to a different responsibility, which is overseen and delegated by the Captain; one crewmember is assigned the primary responsibility of assisting passengers who require assistance; the Captain can assign additional crewmembers to provide assistance if needed

The Committee entered into discuss with staff responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- concerned with passengers having a lack of knowledge of the ferry's safety procedures
- safety drills/simulations are done with simulated passengers as per Transport Canada's requirements
- the ferry's inflatable life rafts are only inflated during an emergency, not during a drill/simulation
- the ferry's commissionaires will often make a note that a passenger with a guide dog or a passenger who requires assistance has boarded the boat

Ms. McFadyen commented that her service dog is her mobility aid and reiterated the importance of including service dogs on the manifest. Ms. Keen indicated that she would follow up on this suggestion.

- a passenger safety briefing video is displayed at each of the Ferry terminals, as per Transport Canada's requirements; an option could be to add an additional sentence at the end of the video indicating that passengers looking to obtain additional information could speak with a commissionaire or crewmember

In response to a question raised by Ms. McFadyen, Ms. Keen advised that she was not aware of a requirement under Transport Canada wherein ferry staff have a legal obligation to run through emergency procedures and provide a brail copy to visually impaired passengers. Ms. Keen noted that she would review Transport Canada's requirements, as well as, identify whether or not other cities in Canada have this requirement.

Mr. Nauffts asked whether information regarding the location of the ferry's lifejackets and lifeboats is available on HRM's website. Ms. Keen advised that she did not believe so but would look into adding this information onto HRM's website.

The Committee requested that they be included in the next ferry training exercise.

4.2 Discussion re: Visit to HRM Four Pad Arena

Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, provided an update to the Committee respecting a visit to the HRM Four Pad Arena. She noted that the facility is still under construction and therefore the elevators are not operational at this time. Staff has indicated that December would be a good time for the Committee to visit the facility.

She asked whether the Committee wanted to travel as a group or meet at the facility individually.

Councillor While suggested that the Committee charter a bus and travel together. Following a brief discussion it was **MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities defer Item 4 – Discussion re: Visit to HRM Four Pad Arena to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Boyd noted that photographs of the sledge hockey boards at the Four Pad Arena had been sent to Committee members via email.

4.3 2010 Work Plan (verbal update)

The following was circulated to the Committee:

- Email extract from Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, dated October 14, 2010 re: update on the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal.
- Email extract from Annette Verge, Operations Coordinator, Service Delivery, dated October 14, 2010 re: update – access button located at the Argyle Street door, City Hall.

Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, provided an overview of the October 14, 2010 email extract from Phillip Townsend. Mr. Townsend is seeking direction from the Committee regarding the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee indicated that they support a change to the ferry's announcement schedule to 12 announcements over two minutes. However, they requested that staff review the option of having tones and/or an announcement for the length of the time the doors are open (approximately three minutes).

Ms. Theresa Horwill provided an update to the Committee regarding two facilitated sessions respecting Parks Canada's development of George's Island as a visitor attraction. A visit to Island was scheduled for October 15th; however, due to poor weather the visit has been rescheduled to October 22nd. Parks Canada is also looking to hold a meeting on either October 25th or 29th to discuss accessibility issues on the Island. She noted that Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, was supposed to attend the site visit but is unable to due to the boat not being accessible. Ms. Horwill noted that Committee members interested in participating can contact Ms. Lisa Dahr, Manager, Partnerships & Professional Development, NSTHRC/TIANS.

Mr. Nauffts expressed an interest in attending the site. Mr. Boyd advised that he would forward Ms. Dahr's contact information to him.

Ms. Tidgwell provided an overview of the Committee members' appointment terms. She noted that members eligible for reappointment and interested in reapplying should submit their application forms as soon as possible. She indicated that Mr. Gary Russell has served three consecutive terms and is not eligible for reappointment. Therefore, the Committee will have to appoint a new Committee representative to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC) once Mr. Russell's term has expired. In response to concern raised by Committee members respecting Mr. Russell's attendance at Committee meetings, Mr. Boyd indicated that he would attend the next TLAC meeting as an observer.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Review of Taxi Driver Handout: About Persons with Disabilities

A memorandum from Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator Taxi and Limousine Service, dated October 1, 2010 with attached Taxi Driver Handout was before the Committee for review.

The Committee reviewed the Taxi Driver Handout, noting that there were no changes to the content. However, they suggested that if the Handout is added to By-law T-08 that the pictures be omitted.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE

7. REPORTS – NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 15, 2010

Due to construction taking place at City Hall, the Committee agree to hold their next meeting in Duke Room 1, 3rd Floor Duke Tower pending its availability.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE