

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

November 15, 2010

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

REGRETS: Mr. Brian Aird

STAFF: Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset
Management
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 18, 2010.....	3
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS	3
4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
4.1 Discussion re: Visit to HRM Four Pad Arena.....	3
4.2 2010 Work Plan Update	3
5. NEW BUSINESS	5
5.1 Surveillance of Problematic Crosswalks and Intersections re: Pedestrian Safety	5
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	6
6.1 Correspondence.....	6
6.1.1 Automakers Research Agreement on Sound for Electronic Cars	6
6.2 Petitions – None	6
6.3 Presentations – None.....	6
7. REPORTS – NONE	6
8. ADDED ITEMS	6
8.1 Helen McFadyen – Maintenance at Service Dog Park.....	6
8.2 Theresa Horwill –Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee Meeting Update	6
9. NEXT MEETING DATE	6
10. ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Boyd noted regrets from Brian Aird and lead the Committee in roundtable introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – October 18, 2010

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the October 18, 2010 minutes be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Additions:

8.1 Helen McFadyen – Maintenance at Service Dog Park

8.2 Theresa Horwill – Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee Meeting Update

Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, reviewed and submitted an email from Ken Williment, Community Development Manager, Halifax Public Libraries, dated November 3, 2010 regarding a Central Library Consultation.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS

4.1 Discussion re: Visit to HRM Four Pad Arena

The Committee entered into a discussion regarding a visit to the HRM Four Pad Arena.

Ms. Helen McFadyen provided her resignation, indicating that this meeting would be her last.

The Committee agreed to tour the arena in conjunction with their regular meeting on January 17, 2011. It was noted that staff would review transportation options for the Committee.

4.2 2010 Work Plan Update

A list of HRM owned (or “of interest”) buildings was circulated to the Committee for review.

Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, provided an update regarding the audio announcements at the Ferry Terminals. He suggested that

the announcement could be changed to run once every twenty seconds for two to three minutes (six times per minute).

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to change the duration of the audio announcement to run once every twenty seconds for two to three minutes (six times per minute). Mr. Townsend advised that the recording chips would have to be sent away to be reformatted.

Mr. Townsend provided an overview of the list of HRM owned (or “of interest”) buildings.

In response to a question raised by Ms. McFadyen, Mr. Townsend advised that the Kyber Building is owned by HRM and noted that it is going through a new management agreement. There are plans to install an elevator as part of readdressing it as a cultural hub.

Ms. McFadyen requested a copy of the Accessibility Checklist for HRM Buildings/Sites that the Committee had prepared, to be provided for the next meeting.

Mr. Townsend noted that there is \$360,000 in uncommitted funds in the Committee’s budget.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Newcombe regarding the Tallahassee Community School and Recreation Centre, Mr. Townsend indicated that HRM has a leased agreement with the Halifax Regional School Board. Ms. Newcombe expressed concern regarding the automatic door opener being removed. She noted that the mechanism is still there; however, the door must be electronically opened from inside the facility.

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern with the St. Andrew’s Community Centre regarding safe travel from the parking lot to the facility, as well as the lack of access to the second floor for persons in wheelchairs. She suggested that the checklist be sent to the facility’s staff for review.

Further facilities noted during the Committee’s discussion included:

- Needham Centre
- Devonshire Rink

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern regarding maintenance issues at the Service Dog Park, including:

- people not picking up after their dogs
- vandalism
- empty doggie bag dispensers

She further indicated that Ontario’s documentary on the park will be released in January 2011 and suggested promotional options for the park such as a name the park contest.

Mr. Townsend advised that HRM has an asset naming policy and Ms. McFadyen may want to review the criteria with either Councillor Wile or Councillor Blumenthal.

Ms. McFadyen further suggested a sign be installed at the park. However, she expressed concern with identifying it as a service dog park, as it could draw negative attention towards visually impaired persons. The sign could remind people to clean up after their dogs.

Mr. Townsend noted that parks are not often fenced off; however, it is appropriate for the service dog park. He commented that staff does not go around picking up after dogs at any park and education is key; many parks are closed if mistreated. Mr. Townsend further indicated that residents can contact the HRM Call Centre respecting refilling the doggie bag dispensers.

Councillor Blumenthal exited the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Russell expressed concern with the former St. Patrick's High School building, commenting that it is a waste of space and could be used by HRM. Mr. Townsend indicated that the building is still being used by the Halifax Regional School Board for administrative purposes. Once the Board is finished with its use, the building will be turned back over to HRM. He further indicated that the former Queen Elizabeth High School building was sold to the Province of Nova Scotia during a land swap.

Ms. McFayen expressed concern with the Capitan William Spry Centre's parking lot, commenting that there should be a sidewalk leading to the facility.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Surveillance of Problematic Crosswalks and Intersections re: Pedestrian Safety

Mr. Tom Boyd expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety in roundabouts and at intersections and noted that this matter has also been discussed during an Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

The Committee entered into discussion.

Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police, provided an overview of 51 reported pedestrian/vehicle collisions from January 2010 to present within the Central Division of HRM. He commented that the collisions were not within the same intersection and further indicated that Halifax Regional Police have issued 150 tickets for 2010 to date respecting these related offences.

Ms. Newcombe commented that Metro Transit bus drivers should not allow passengers to cross the street in front of the bus.

Superintendent Falkenham further indicated that a Crosswalk Campaign is run three to four times per year.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Automakers Research Agreement on Sound for Electronic Cars

An article extract from GM-Volt: Chevy Volt Electric Car Site – June 5, 2010 re: Automakers Reach agreement on Sound for Electric Cars, Posted by Lyle was before the Committee.

Ms. Helen McFadyen provided an overview of the June 5th article extract.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations – None

7. REPORTS – NONE

Councillor Wile exited the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Helen McFadyen – Maintenance at Service Dog Park

This matter was addressed under Item 4.2 - 2010 Work Plan Update, see page 4.

8.2 Theresa Horwill –Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee Meeting Update

Ms. Theresa Horwill advised that there is a Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 18th. She indicated that she has spoke to the Committee's Chair and staff respecting the removal of the photographs from the Taxi Driver Handout: About Persons with Disabilities.

Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police, indicated that during taxi driver training, drivers are required to watch a twenty minute instructional video respecting persons with disabilities. The Committee requested a copy of the video for their review during one of their meetings. Mr. Russell indicated that he would check to see if he could get a copy.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, advised that Duke Room 1, 3rd Floor Duke Tower has been booked for the December 20th meeting.

MOVED Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Horwill, that the December 20th meeting be cancelled and hold the next regular meeting January 17, 2011. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE