

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES**

July 21, 2008

PRESENT: Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Ms. Rebecca King
Mr. Alan Farquhar
Councillor Mary Wile
Mr. Tom Boyd
Mr. Gary Russell, Vice-Chair
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Ms. Sanaz Gerami

REGRETS: Councillor Patrick Murphy

STAFF: Superintendent Cliff Falkenham - Patrol Division (HRP)
Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair, in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. McFadyen asked members of the Committee to identify him/herself audibly for clarification on the record.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** -June 16, 2008

MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Mr. Russell, that the minutes of June 16, 2008 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Added Items:

The following items were circulated to the Committee as Information Items on an Added Items Agenda:

1. Email: Lori Patterson re: ALF Survey and Results
2. Electronic correspondence: Update from Ms. Debra MacKenzie re: Bowles Arena
3. Bowles Arena & Sledge Hockey - Mr. Jim Becket
4. Invitation to Ms. Debra MacKenzie

MOVED BY Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the order of business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 **Ms. Andrea Waters and Noreen Guptill - (IWK Rehab Recreation Loan Program)**

Ms. Andrea Waters advised the Committee that she and Ms. Noreen Guptill have been working with children and youth {from birth to age 21} as part of the rehabilitation program at the IWK. She advised that they are a community based program rather than a hospital based one. As part of that, they have been working with community service providers to help increase options to individuals with disabilities - particularly, children and youth. She stated that they have been partnering with many groups trying to launch new programs with the support of the IWK.

Ms. Waters advised the Committee that the IWK has begun an equipment loan program,

as one of the biggest hurdles of families with members who have disabilities is the inability to purchase the specialized equipment needed to participate in recreational activities. She pointed out that a lot of this equipment has been out of reach, financially, for these families, and the fact that not all are even aware of the existence of the accessible/assistive equipment.

She stated that some of the top priorities for the families are swimming, biking, and rink access. She advised that the IWK has invested in some adaptive bikes. She commented that Nova Scotia is a 'beach' Province, but none of these beaches are accessible to anyone who utilizes a wheelchair. She advised that she has researched a number of beach chairs, but not all are easily transported, as a result of their bulkiness. She circulated a picture of one such beach chair called the "Hippocampe". The following points were made regarding the beach chair:

- Comes in four sizes: a children's size and three different adult sizes.
- The chair weighs about 30 pounds
- Can be taken apart easily and fit into a bag the size of a hockey bag
- IWK only has one of these chairs; it is always booked as the demand is quite large; it would be ideal to have more.
- The chair is waterproof .

Ms. Waters went on to describe the adaptive bikes used for the program, that comes through budget or through grants: .

- Called a 'duet cycle'; for someone who is not able to ride for themselves to ride on the front of the bike
- Back of the bike looks like a typical two-wheeler
- There is a wheelchair front that detaches from the bike
- An insert could be placed in front for a very small child
- The cost is around \$6,000 (difficult for families to receive funding for).

Ms. Waters further advised that there should be sledges for sledge hockey at every rink, which would give the children another option to participate. She stated that their top priority for the community to assist with would be the Hippocampe and the duet cycle.

Ms. McFadyen commented that this would be an excellent program for the Committee to look into developing the basis to bring this into an HRM loan program for everyone.

In response to Councillor Wile's query regarding promotion and sponsorships, Ms. Guptill informed the Committee that sponsorship from companies could be accepted, that would have to be directed specifically to the use of the assistive devices and not get lost in the foundation. She advised that they are also looking at getting money from other sources, and are trying to work with the communities.

Ms. Waters referred to the 'Moby Changer', an issue that had been raised in a previous

meeting by Ms. Rebecca King. She advised that these changers move up and down and prevents back injuries. She clarified that a person could be easily transferred from wheelchair height on to the table and then have it adapted to whatever height is required. She further advised that the Moby Changer is on locking wheels. The price for the Moby Changer is in the \$3,000 range. Mr. Townsend added that he does not see this changer replacing the flip up table, but would be put into certain areas and facilities, depending on need/usage.

The Chair stated that she will contact Mr. John Henry in regards to the Moby Changer to ensure his awareness, so that he may explore if there are spaces to accommodate the use of the changers.

5.2 Mr. Phil Townsend - (Disbursement of \$200,000) Current list of Requests/Suggestions

A document entitled, "ACPD List To Date For Spending 200k" was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed the list of eleven items, identifying the approximate funds that would be needed for each, as follows:

	<u>Estimated Cost:</u>
• Bowles Arena	\$30,000 - 35, 000
• Cole Harbour Place Swimming Pool	\$8,000
• Shubie Park Interpretation Centre	\$4,600
• Spryfield Lions Arena	Unknown cost
• Dartmouth Ferry Terminal	Unknown cost
• HRM Service Dog Run	Unknown cost
• Needham Pool	Unknown cost
• Bedford Exterior Pool	Unknown cost
• Alderney Landing Parkade	\$6,000 (2k for openers)
• Commons Exterior Pool	Unknown cost
• Public Washroom Change Tables	\$5,000

Mr. Alan Farquhar arrived at 4:47 pm.

The Chair advised that she will make a request for Service Dog Handlers to come forward to further discuss the notion of service dog runs in the HRM.

Mr. Townsend advised that he would come back to the Committee regarding information on what is wanted/needed for accessibility and the prices for the Spryfield Lion's Arena.

Ms. Guptill distributed a brochure (Recreation Therapy - IWK Health Centre, Pediatric Rehabilitation Service) and gave the Committee the background on the Bowles Arena and the retrofit needed for access of the sledge hockey team. She stated that there is interest in playing sledge hockey in the metro area, [the national team wants to come to HRM and do a training camp with the US team] but there is no ice time for them or an accessible arena for them to use, as well as the need for door openers. She advised that Hockey Canada gave Hockey Nova Scotia funding to purchase twelve sledges. She further

advised that they had applied for grants through the Canadian Paralympic Committee Interest Group and received funding to purchase another twelve, making it possible for Hockey Nova Scotia to go around the province to promote sledge hockey. A discussion ensued and Ms. Guptill took questions of clarification from the Committee, after which the following motion was passed:

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Ms. King, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will contribute \$35,000 towards the retrofit accessibility of the Bowles Arena for the Sledge Hockey Team, and the automatic door opener.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Ms. Guptill advised the Committee that there would be a demonstration of sledge hockey at the Dartmouth Sportsplex and that she would further advise the ACPD of the date and time.

5.3 Mr. Bruce Gates, Construction Inspector (Spring Garden Road Access-a-Bus landing Pad)

The Chair will continue to contact Mr. Gates regarding the Spring Garden Road Access-a-Bus landing pad.

5.4 Updates on Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) and Taxi and Limousine Committee (Gary Russell)

Mr. Russell informed the Committee that the last meetings for both the Cultural Advisory Committee and Taxi and Limousine Committee were cancelled, therefore no updates were available.

Mr. Russell advised Ms. McFadyen to contact Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Services, in regard to persons with disabilities or with a service dog, who have been denied access to services, in order to enforce regulations.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

The Chair advised that the ACPD has to get ideas to Mr. Jerome Singleton regarding the proposed university students doing a needs assessment research around HRM, as Mr. Singleton was informed at the previous ACPD meeting that they would have these ideas for him by July. The goal is for HRM to have its own Recreation Assistive Device Program.

Ms. King suggested that a needs assessment be carried out with the parents of children with disabilities to discern what they would like to do with their children that they can not do at the present time.

Mr. Farquhar stated that Mr. Singleton advised that the students' first task would be to look at existing legislation. He advised that the students would have to get some educational experience from the study as well. They would do some analysis of current journal writing

and apply that to laws, bylaws, provincial laws and standards. He commented that children with disabilities access to recreational facilities is not the same as for children who are able-bodied.

Councillor Wile suggested circulating a survey to children with disabilities to discern what they feel regarding accessibility and then do a report on the survey results.

Mr. Farquhar advised the ACPD that he will contact Mr. Singleton after the meeting and suggest narrowing the research to a certain age group of children with disabilities and ascertain what their accessibility needs are.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

The following correspondence was discussed by the ACPD in regards to other agenda items pertaining to them:

1. Email from Mr. Phil Townsend, Manager, Capital Projects, Infrastructure & Asset Management
2. Electronic correspondence with Mr. John Henry, Coordinator - Community Development
3. Correspondence (electronically) - Mr. Bruce Gates, Construction Inspector, design & Construction Services

8. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

Added Items Agenda:

1. Email: Lori Patterson re: ALF Survey and Results
2. Electronic correspondence: Update from Ms. Debra MacKenzie re: Bowles Arena
3. Bowles Arena & Sledge Hockey - Mr. Jim Becket
4. Invitation to Ms. Debra MacKenzie

The added items [information items] listed above were circulated and discussed with other agenda items pertaining to each.

In regards to Added Item #1, the Committee is awaiting further response from Ms. Lori Patterson regarding Todd Hacquoil's ALF survey and response.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will be August 18, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd floor, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant