

**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**July 18, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Theresa Horwill, Chair  
Tom Boyd, Vice Chair  
Troy Nauffts  
Mary Newcombe  
Brian Aird  
Jack Jones  
Cynthia Bryant  
David MacLean  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal

**REGRETS:** Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police

**STAFF:** Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Human Resources  
Darren Young, Project Manager, Infrastructure & Asset  
Management  
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management  
Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk  
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2011 .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE .....	3
5.	NEW BUSINESS - NONE .....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS .....	3
	6.1 Correspondence - NONE.....	3
	6.2 Petitions - NONE .....	3
	6.3 Presentation – NONE .....	3
7.	REPORTS .....	3
	7.1 Update on Accessibility Assessment of HRM owned buildings.....	3
	7.1.1 Inclusion of “ACA opinion only” clause (Disclaimer Note) .....	4
	7.1.2 Quotation for accessibility repairs to Needham Centre .....	4
	7.1.3 HRM Tender Specifications – best practices specification list for accessibility needs .....	4
	7.1.4 Accessibility Funds Spent/Remaining .....	5
	7.2 Educational Awareness – Mr.Troy Nauffts.....	5
	7.2.1 What else can the advisory committee focus on besides HRM buildings? .....	5
	7.2.2 Making Outdoor Recreational Activities More Accessible .....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS - NONE .....	6
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – September 22, 2011.....	6
10.	ADJOURNMENT .....	6

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Duke Tower, 5251 Duke Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2011**

The Chair noted that Mr. Phil Townsend should be noted under staff as sending regrets for the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MOVED by Mr. Brian Aird, seconded by Mr. Troy Nauffts, that the minutes of June 20, 2011, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Ms. Mary Newcombe, seconded by Ms. Cindy Bryant, that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentation – None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Update on Accessibility Assessment of HRM owned buildings**

The Committee held a discussion to follow up on last meeting's update regarding The Economy Glass quote for the Centennial Arena dated June 9, 2011. After further follow up it was discovered that the quote provided did not include the cost of the doors that the Committee is concerned about. Mr. Darren Young did not proceed with any work at the Centennial Arena because the doors are the Committee's primary concern and need to be addressed before considering anything else. There might be a possibility of installing half sliding doors which would be half the size and open on top of each other. Mr. Young said that he would send out an email with an update on the situation prior to the Committee's next meeting.

There was a lengthily discussion among the Committee members about the flaws that have been observed at the Canada Games Centre which was built using CSA Standards and which has the most accessibility features in the province. The discussion went on to consider various ways in which the flaws which have been revealed in the centre can be prevented in new buildings such as the library which is currently under construction. The library held extensive consultations before starting to build and the Committee would like to be involved in those types of consultations in the future.

Mr. Young was asked to look at the North Woodside accessibility washroom along with the one at Eastern Shore Community Centre. He reported to the Committee that each will cost approximately \$7,500 each.

**MOVED by Councillor Mary Wile, seconded by Mary Newcombe, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that staff do the work required to make these washrooms accessible at both the Eastern Shore Community Centre and the North Woodside locations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Mr. Jones is going to look at the Saint Mary's Boat Club and report back to the Committee and Mr. Nauffts will join him on his inspection. They will be looking at two major issues, the accessible ramp access to the lower level and the issue of the parking available for vehicles who need to access that ramp. They will report their findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

#### **7.1.1 Inclusion of "ACA opinion only" clause (Disclaimer Note)**

No discussion was held with regard to this matter.

#### **7.1.2 Quotation for accessibility repairs to Needham Centre**

Mr. Young sought clarification from the Committee as to whether they intended he arrange for the repair of all accessibility issues that are outstanding at the Needham Centre. It was agreed by the Committee that the actual meaning is that Mr. Young needs to go visit the Needham Centre and identify what needs to be done with regards to accessibility. The Committee will also undertake an accessibility assessment of the facility. Recommendations for repairs from Mr. Young and the Committee will be forwarded to Mr. Phill Townsend so that a cost estimate can be drawn up and brought back to the Committee.

#### **7.1.3 HRM Tender Specifications – best practices specification list for accessibility needs**

The Committee has been discussing ways in which they can standardize a specification list for accessibility needs that can be used in addition to the minimum standards in the building code. Mr. Young advised that there is a Canadian Standard that lays out all of

the changes in specs for accessibility and the Committee agreed that they would now like to adopt those specs as their own standard. This will allow Mr. Phill Townsend to go to HRM's consultants with a specific list of standards that the Committee would like them to consistently adhere to when building. Mr. Laughlin Rutt made the point that the CSA Standards cover much more than just the building code and will help to make future buildings much more accessible.

It was also requested that copies of the CSA Standards be distributed to committee members once they have been purchased if possible.

#### **7.1.4 Accessibility Funds Spent/Remaining**

Accessibility funds that have been committed stand at \$20,000 and funds that remain uncommitted stand at \$425,000. The committed money currently covers projects such as the Centennial Arena, Chocolate Lake, audio signals at the ferry terminal and pool lifts.

The Committee requested that the budget for the accessibility funds be provided at the next meeting.

### **7.2 Educational Awareness – Mr. Troy Nauffts**

#### **7.2.1 What else can the Committee focus on besides HRM buildings?**

Mr. Nauffts would like for the Committee to consider what else they can be doing for people with all disabilities and what individuals living in HRM need to be aware of. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have a more accessible website and also to have the city consider public service announcements and awareness campaigns regarding people with accessibility issues. The Committee will clarify the messages that they would like to get across to the public at the September meeting and then will invite representatives from External Affairs/Corporate Communications to the October meeting to discuss the communications aspects.

The Committee requested that the minutes from the previous meeting that they had with individuals from HRM web design be re-distributed, along with the Committee's Terms of Reference

#### **7.2.2 Making Outdoor Recreational Activities More Accessible**

Mr. Nauffts asked for the support of the Committee for work that he is doing to make outdoor recreational activities more accessible such as hiking, canoeing, swimming and sailing. He and a member of city staff and another individual are looking at two pilot projects to make one hiking trail completely accessible and one canoe club completely accessible. Making these accessible to blind and visually impaired individuals will be the main focus but they are willing to consider all disabilities and have input from the Committee.

**MOVED by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. McLean the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports Mr. Nauffts work on the outdoor recreational activities accessibility pilot projects. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 22, 2011**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support