



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
May 25, 2015**

PRESENT:

Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Steve Craig
Patricia Gates
Yvon Clement
Troy Nauffts
Gerry Post
Meredith Fillmore
Nancy Beaton

REGRETS:

Krista Daley, Vice Chair
Mikiko Terashima

STAFF:

Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police
Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, HRM Human Resources
Darren Young, Project Manager, HRM Planning & Infrastructure
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April, 20, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Meredith Fillmore, that the minutes of April 20, 2015, be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Councillor Craig indicated he wished to share a Proclamation with the Committee, under Item 6, to which the Committee agreed.

MOVED by Troy Nauffts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 An Alternative Model for Access-a-Bus

The following was before the Committee:

- A Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant “Presentation at April 20, 2015 AAC Meeting – An Alternative Business Model to Access-A-Bus Service” dated May 7, 2015.

The Chair informed the Committee that there was a motion passed at the last meeting that requires clarification before going forward to the Transportation Standing Committee. The Legislative Assistant clarified that Council cannot vote on a motion until a staff recommendation report has been received on a matter.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Yvon Clement, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report in regard to conducting an assessment to examine the use of accessible taxi service to supplement the Access-A-Bus service.

MOVED by Gerry Post, seconded by Meredith Fillmore, that the motion be amended to read: That the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report in regard to conducting an independent assessment to examine the use of accessible taxi service to supplement the Access-A-Bus service.

The vote on the amendment was tied, and therefore the **AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED.**

MAIN MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

Councillor Craig shared the Mayor’s Proclamation regarding Access Awareness Week (June 1 – 7, 2015) with the Committee.

Mr. Rutt informed the Committee that Mr. Damion Stapledon, HRM Parks & Recreation, and staff liaison to the Committee, is being honoured with an award in recognition for his work around accessibility as a public servant. The Chair stated that the awards are taking place on Monday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. at Province House.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentation - None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1. Update – Consultation re: Proposed Amendments to Admin. Order 39 – Taxi & Limousine Regulation – Kevin Hindle, Regional Licensing

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from G. Jollymore “To all stake holders HRM Taxi Business” dated May 15 2015.

Mr. Hindle provided the Committee with an update on the consultation process underway regarding proposed amendments to Administrative Order 39 – Taxi and Limousine Regulation. He noted that he has attended the Committee on previous occasions to discussions the proposed amendments.

Mr. Hindle indicated that after hearing concerns from the Taxi & Limousine industry, the Transportation Standing Committee requested further consultation with the industry on the amendments being proposed.

He advised that the Municipality brought in an outside consulting firm, Halifax Global Inc., which took on the consultation process, which included a two-part survey process. One part was a Town Hall meeting and the other was an online survey. He noted that the online survey focussed on three main questions:

1. Do we continue to receive names to go on a waiting list for a conventional license?
2. Do we continue to reissue conventional licenses?
3. What happens to the names on the waiting list if we do not?

Mr. Hindle indicated that staff are awaiting the final report from the consultant.

Ms. Nancy Beaton shared with the Committee that the Town Hall Meeting was disappointing, unfortunate and not respectful of persons with disabilities. She explained that the discussion at the meeting was around profits for the industry instead of the needs of individuals with disabilities being met. The Chair stated that she shares these concerns around the lack of inclusion and equality at the meeting.

Mr. Hindle explained that while this is very unfortunate, it is also the reason why it is important for alternatives to be presented to the Transportation Standing Committee and then Regional Council. He stated that the report should be going through at the middle or end of June.

Mr. Hindle explained that Mr. Jollymore’s correspondence was forwarded to Halifax Global Inc. and will be captured in the report.

7.2. Update – Accessibility Assessment HRM Owned/Operated Buildings

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff information report entitled “Corporate Facility Design & Construction Progress Update” dated May 18, 2015

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Young explained that Point Pleasant Park is not included in the 34 facilities that were assessed last year but said that he can look into providing accessible washrooms and picnic tables there.

The Committee requested an update on the Service Dog Park. The Legislative Assistant indicated she would obtain an update for the following meeting.

Mr. Young followed up on Mr. Post's inquiries about a railing at the viewing area above Paul O'Regan Hall in the Halifax Central Library and stated that it is actually a guard rail so the height cannot be changed.

Mr. Young clarified for the Committee that staff are doing all of the site audits at this point and if the Committee would like a particular site examined that they should inform him so that he can make audit arrangements.

7.3 Board and Committee Guide Review – Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

The following was before the Committee:

- The HRM Board and Committee Guide

Ms. Weagle suggested that Committee members review the guide and let her know of any sections in particular they would like her to review with the Committee, or any questions they have.

7.4 Committee Member Updates

7.4.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – vacant

Councillor Mason offered to provide updates on the activities of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) until a representative from the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has been appointed, as he is a member of ATAC in his capacity as Councillor.

- **Appointment of an AAC representative to ATAC**

Deferred to the next meeting.

7.4.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Vacant

The Chair offered to provide updates on the activities of the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) until a representative from the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) has been appointed, as she is a member of the TLLG as a citizen representative.

- **Appointment of an AAC representative to TLLG**

Deferred to the next meeting.

7.4.3 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee – Krista Daley

Ms. Daley was not present to provide an update. This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

7.4.4 Discussion – “Low Hanging Fruit”/Easily Achievable Fixes

Mr. Post suggested that curb cuts be done when sidewalks are being re-done as a regular course of action. Councillor Mason recalled a motion related to this going through the Transportation Standing Committee and committed to providing an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Clement asked that someone look into staples on power poles. He informed the Committee that he cut his face on some staples that were sticking out on a power pole. Supt. Cliff Falkenham said that he would follow up with Municipal Compliance to find out what the rules surrounding this is.

Mr. Post informed the Committee about the James McGregor Stewart Award. It is a \$1,000 award each year for a member of the community who has made an extraordinary contribution to help remove barriers for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Post said that he would email the Committee the details.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, June 15, 2015

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Jenny Benson
Legislative Support