

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2001

PRESENT: Paul Connors, Chair
Donald Mullins
Peggy Brown
Cynthia Street
Bob Venus
Sally Campbell
Anne Langille
Jane Cale
Deputy Mayor Blumenthal

REGRETS: Elsie Cholette
Ken Hines
Maureen Reynolds
Mary Anne Jones
Mary MacDonald
Barb LeGay

STAFF: Charla Williams, Diversity Coordinator
Roel Vis, Metro Transit Scheduler
Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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0.1 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/IDENTIFICATION OF ATTENDEES

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. with introduction of members.

1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Peggy Brown requested "Signage at Council" be added to the agenda. (Item 4.14)

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Peggy Brown, that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 15, 2001

Peggy Brown advised she had not received her Braille minutes. Paul Connor to contact Dorothy Cartledge.

MOVED by Donald Mullins, seconded by Jane Cale, that the January 15, 2001 minutes to be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Braille Printer - Update

Peggy Brown requested she also receive agenda attachments in Braille. Paul will include this in his discussions with Dorothy Cartledge.

3.2 Request by Mr. MacDonald for a leave of absence

The Committee was in receipt of correspondence from Mr. MacDonald wherein he was requesting a leave of absence. Mr. Connors advised he had informed Mr. MacDonald that there is no policy or mechanism for approval of a leave of absence. Mr. Connors advised he would contact Mr. MacDonald and discuss the situation and follow up with a written response.

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 2001 - 2002 Work Plan - Information Report to Regional Council

The committee discussed the Work Plan and it was noted that budget implications would not be necessary as such things as meals, staff support and meeting accommodations were

provided through existing business unit budgets. It was suggested that the words 'such as' be added prior to the bullets for activities 3, 4 and 5. It was suggested the term "business units" be used instead of departments.

MOVED by Peggy Brown, seconded by Cynthia Street, that when changes are made the Committee authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair to take the report to Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 Accommodations Guidelines Working Group - Ms. Brown and Ms. Reynolds

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.3 Vestar - Mr. Labrecque re appointment of staff resource and whether the School Board Building, Alderney Drive falls under his jurisdiction; consideration of chemical sensitivities

Mr. Mike Labrecque, General Manager, Building Management Services, advised Building Management Services operates, maintains and develops all of the space requirements for HRM. They look after all the custodial work in HRM and operations and maintenance functions. They manage leased space.

Mr. Venus noted that the School Board building on Alderney Drive is not easily accessed as the brick work on the steps has begun to deteriorate.

Mr. Labrecque advised there is a plan to replace the steps which includes a community consultation process. The idea is to redevelop the waterfront and be able to provide accessibility and landscaping.

Ms. Williams noted there is no wheelchair access at the main entrance of the building.

Mr. Labrecque advised he would find out what the plans are for that building for the next number of years and make the information available to the committee.

Ms. Langille suggested that escalators and stairs have strips to aid blind persons.

In response to Ms. Williams, Mr. Labrecque advised there is no accessible audit for buildings proposed at the present time. He advised that whenever there is a major renovation, part of the requirements include issues of accessibility where they are needed. He advised they are currently compiling information on buildings and, accessibility is one of the items being addressed.

Mr. Connors invited Mr. Labrecque to the next meeting of the committee.

4.4 Crosswalk Update re Ms. Beaver's Deaf Daughter - Ms. Williams

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.5 Pedways - Update (Mr. Robar)

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.6 Regional Council request that the Committee investigate the matter of crosswalks and curb cuts for wheelchairs to identify any that could be improved

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.7 Event Guidelines - Update Charla Williams

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.8 Accessible Low Floor Buses - Memo to Council, Metro Transit re service

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.9 Taxi By-Law - Sensitivity Training - Letter to Council - Update

Mr. Connors advised he had forwarded correspondence to Council with regards to this issue. A copy was circulated to the committee.

4.10 Audible Traffic Signals - Note drafted by Mr. Robar to Regional Council endorsing

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.11 HRM Website - Update

Deferred to next meeting.

4.12 Request for Painted Crosswalk - Lower Water Street at Prince Street

Deferred to the next meeting.

4.13 Bus Passes for Blind - Request from Regional Council

Ms. Williams questioned the appropriateness of the provision of this service at the present time as many changes have taken place since this practice was initiated. She noted that the only people who were not eligible for Access-A-Bus were the blind when it was first put in place. She noted there are budget implications with the provision of this service and the monies would have to be included in the overall transit budget.

Mr. Mullins suggested more low floor buses be used on those routes where it is known that blind persons use the bus. He also suggested a more affordable pass for the disabled.

Ms. Street reiterated affordability was an issue and suggested that it be a criteria used by Metro Transit when looking at these issues.

Ms. Williams stated an opportunity has to be provided to anyone who wants to be heard on this issue prior to a report to Council from the Committee. She suggested the committee identify the information it wants to gather and suggest a process for gathering some of the information. She suggested members of the committee meet with CNIB and other organizations and bring the information back to the committee. It was agreed that, in the interim, Mr. Vis, Ms. Williams and Mr. Connors would discuss the issue.

4.14 Signage at Council

Deferred to the next meeting.

5.0 ACCESS-A-BUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES - OCTOBER 2000

These were circulated for information.

Statistics - October and November

These were circulated for information.

6.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2001.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Assistant Municipal Clerk