

## **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **MINUTES**

DECEMBER 17, 2001

**PRESENT:** Paul Connors, Chair  
Councillor Sarto  
Councillor Meade  
Jane Cale  
Peggy Brown  
Don Mullins  
Sally Campbell  
Betty MacDonald  
Cynthia Street  
Bob Venus  
Maureen Reynolds  
Barbara LeGay

**REGRETS:** Anne Langille

**GUEST:** Mr. Edward Laverty, member ATAC

**STAFF:** Charla Williams, Diversity Program Coordinator  
Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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The meeting was called to order by the Chair in Halifax Hall at 4:00 p.m.

A joint meeting with the Taxi and Limousine Committee was to commence at 4:30 p.m. Due to time constraints, the agenda was put aside and the following items raised.

### **Motorized Wheelchairs**

It was requested by Councillor Meade that this item be added on the January 21, 2002 agenda. He expressed concern regarding the lack of regulations associated with motorized wheelchairs. He referred to recent accidents in Cape Breton associated with their operation.

### **Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee**

Ms. Brown reported that Kevin Hindle, Special Projects, Metro Transit Services has been appointed to replace Roel Vis on the Committee.

She also reported that she had raised the concerns members of the Committee expressed at the November meeting regarding the lack of numbers being displayed on the sides and back of the Metro Transit buses.

Ms. Williams has been advised that there are no numbers on the back of buses as they have been stolen. Metro Transit is looking into a different system. They recognize in the meantime, that they need to do something.

### **Correspondence re Housing Concerns of Those with Chemical Sensitivity**

As requested, Ms. Reynolds provided a draft of a letter to Mayor Kelly regarding the need for safe housing for individuals with chemical sensitivities. The draft will be reviewed at the January meeting.

### **Advertisement - Reach Nova Scotia**

At the November meeting, Councillor Sarto had brought to the members' attention an advertisement regarding a program Human Resources Development Canada, in partnership with Reach Nova Scotia was putting on. The program is directed at providing employment opportunities for people living with disabilities. A copy of the newspaper advertisement was provided by Jane Cale to the Secretary. She will circulate in the January agenda package for information purposes.

### **West End Mall - Mumford Road Terminal**

Concerns regarding this development were raised at the November meeting. There was a general discussion of the shortcomings of this development. The Chair noted that he will be meeting with the Director of Engineering and this is one of the topics he will raise with him.

It was noted that initiatives are underway to correct shortcomings.

It was suggested by Mr. Lavery that the developers were trying to make the project environmentally friendly, ie. by reducing bus fumes entering the complex by locating them further from the site, when they are idling.

Concern was expressed by Betty MacDonald regarding the installation of traffic calming devices on Roman Street, near the Halifax Shopping Centre. Mr. Connors indicated the narrowing of a traffic lane is to discourage traffic and slow it down. Ms. MacDonald felt the device presents a problem especially at night, if one comes upon it unexpectedly. Mr. Connors will raise with Traffic staff to see if additional signage is needed.

Councillor Sarto advised that Regional Council is expecting some sort of report on the development in January. Ms. Campbell also referred the members to the project's web site.

### **Low Floor Buses**

Ms. MacDonald alerted the Committee to problems she has observed with the operation of the low floor buses. She observed an incident where either the bus driver did not know how to operate the device to allow wheelchair access, or there was a mechanical problem. In any event, there was no way for the driver to communicate to deaf individuals what the problem was. This raised the whole issue of communications with the deaf on buses. She proposed there may be a need for a computer into which drivers could type messages for display in such situations. The Chair will contact Metro Transit and inform them of the observation.

### **Discussion Paper for Joint Meeting with Taxi and Limousine Committee**

Copies of the correspondence Barbara LeGay prepared for today's joint meeting, to which was attached a Discussion Paper were circulated at the meeting. The Discussion Paper addressed issues with respect to the provision of safe and reliable transportation to persons with disabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to meet with the Taxi and Limousine Committee.

Lynne Le Boutillier  
Assistant Municipal Clerk