

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2002

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Connors, Chair
Ms. Anne Langille
Ms. Peggy Brown
Councillor Sarto
Councillor Meade
Ms. Cynthia Street
Mr. Bob Venus
Ms. Betty MacDonald
Ms. Maureen Reynolds (part)
Ms. Barb LeGay
Ms. Joanne Coffey

ABSENT: Mr. Don Mullins (regrets)
Ms. Sally Campbell (regrets)
Ms. Jane Cale (regrets)
Ms. Elsie Cholette
Inspector Falkenham, HRP (regrets)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Chris Racine, interpreter
Ms. Laura Bartlett, interpreter
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Special Projects, Metro Transit
Mr. Wayne Groszko, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator
Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Program Coordinator
Ms. Lynne Le Boutillier, Assistant Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call to Order and Introductions	3
2.	Approval of Minutes	3
3.	Approval of Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions	3
4.	Business Arising out of the Minutes and Status Sheet	
4.1	Endorsement of the Policy Statement of the Community and Race Relations Advisory Committee	3
4.2	Draft Correspondence to Mayor, Housing Concerns of those with Chemical Sensitivity	4 & 5
4.3	West End Mall Traffic Concerns - Outcome of Meeting with CNIB September 17, 2002	5
4.4	Crosswalk Issue - Rockingham and Others from Status Sheet	5 & 6
4.5	Barrier-Free Design Discussion Paper and Questionnaire	6
4.6	Training Programs for Emergency Response Teams	6
4.7	Draft to Council re CNIB Bus Passes	6 & 7
	Sign Timberlea Area - Caution Hearing Impaired Person	7
	Interpreters - Regional Council	7
4.8	HRM Parks Control re Point Pleasant Park	7
	Workshop - Community Action on Homelessness	7
	Jaws Software	7
4.9	Letter of Appreciation to Councillor Sarto and Home Depot re Accessible Park Woodlawn, District 7/Mount Edward Elementary School	7 & 8
5.	NEW BUSINESS	
5.1	Correspondence - Request for help re Access to Metro Transit/Access-a-Bus Services	8
5.2	Sidewalk Cafes	8
5.3	Resignation of Vice-Chair	8 & 9
5.4	OMG Atlantic - Sidewalk Receptacles	9
5.5	Housing Issues "Live at Five"	9
5.6	Design Guidelines	9
5.7	Accessible Gas Stations	9
5.8	Accessible Playgrounds	9
	Information Item - West Nova Persons with Disabilities	10
6.	Date of Next Meeting	10
7.	Adjournment	10

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 4:00 p.m., Training Room, 3rd Floor, Duke Tower.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following changes were made to the minutes:

Item 1, page 3 - Reference to Bouquet - Park Woodlawn should read Mount Edward Elementary School Park. This change should also be made on page 11, in the heading of item 5.9.

Also in the list of those Also Present, the interpreters were Mr. Chris Racine and Ms. Laura Bartlett.

MOVED BY Councillor Meade and Ms. Brown that the September 16, 2002 minutes, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

An information item from Councillor Meade entitled "West Nova Persons with Disabilities Committee".

Items 5.7 - Accessible Gas Stations (Peggy Brown)
5.8 - Accessible Playgrounds (Councillor Meade)
Community Action on Homelessness and Jaws Software Update (Peggy Brown)/combined with Item 4.8

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES AND STATUS SHEET

4.1 ENDORSEMENT OF THE POLICY STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AND RACE RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - UPDATE ON THE CHAIR'S FOLLOW-UP WITH MS. THOMAS

The Chair will contact Ms. Thomas.

4.2 DRAFT CORRESPONDENCE TO MAYOR, HOUSING CONCERNS OF THOSE

WITH CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

- C Draft of report to Regional Council circulated at September meeting entitled "Housing". It is recommended in the report that:
1. A study on people in need of less toxic housing be carried out immediately and that the recommendations based on that study go to the Province, in cases where the issue can best be dealt with by the province, and that where the municipality can take effective action, recommendations go to HRM Council.
 2. HRM request the Province to devote some of the \$37 million recently announced for affordable housing units in Nova Scotia to housing for individuals with multi-chemical sensitivities and other populations that need less toxic housing.

During discussion of the draft and what the best process would be, i.e. ask Council to lobby the Province or ask Council to direct HRM staff to investigate whether the Municipality can affect initiatives or steps to support the initiative in areas in which the Municipality has control, the following points were raised:

- C CMHC has a guide for people with chemical sensitivities. Ms. Reynolds will review with Ms. Street.
- C HRM does not have a role in public housing (direct responsibility for housing).
- C Discuss with Planning and Development what can be done within HRM to help support the initiative to make less toxic housing available to people with chemical sensitivities. Perhaps there could be changes in policy/bylaws which could be passed along to developers. For example, the location of dryer vents. By-laws similar to the Noise Control By-law.
- C Reference was made to the Healthy Growth for HRM and if it would have a strategic plan in this regard.
- C Rather than making a recommendation to the Province, determine what HRM can do.
- C Planning and Development Services be contacted to see if they would be willing to do a study on people in need of less toxic housing before such a recommendation for such a study went to Council.
- C It would be preferable to have statistics to add to the report which reflect the local/regional situation verses the ones provided from Massachusetts. Ms. Reynolds will try to obtain some from the Nova Scotia Environmental Centre based on their experience with problems people with chemical sensitivities face when trying to find housing. Ms. Reynolds noted that they have not conducted a study. The Chair noted that it may be necessary to indicate in the report that since no funds have been available, there is little data available, thus the statistics are limited. Some of the numbers are contained in the report associated with the Pesticide By-law, i.e. 6.5% of the populations is affected by

- chemical sensitivities.
- C Barb Nehiley should be consulted, as she is the only person within HRM actively working on the whole issue of affordable housing. It was felt Ms. Reynolds should give her a call and make reference to the draft report. Ms. Nehiley may suggest making recommendations to the Province.
 - C Hesitation was expressed about making a recommendation for a study, when the funds are not there.
 - C It might be worthwhile contacting those involved with Community Action on Homelessness.

Once the changes were incorporated in the report, it will be run by Councillor Sarto. There is no need to bring it back to the Committee for approval, however a copy of the eventual report will be provided for information.

4.3 WEST END MALL TRAFFIC CONCERNS - OUTCOME OF MEETING WITH CNIB SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

Mr. Kevin Hindle and Ms. Peggy Brown attended this meeting to discuss concerns associated with vehicle and pedestrian traffic in various locations associated with the West End Mall. A number of individuals from the CNIB attended the meeting. No representatives from the Halifax Shopping Centre Development Corporation were in attendance, but Mr. Hindle received a call from them three days later asking what had taken place. They had been invited to the meeting and various groups have tried to contact their offices, but no feedback has been obtained from the development corporation managing the facility. Follow-up meetings are planned.

As a result of the meeting, everyone now knows who is in charge; where to voice concerns and what has been done thus far with the concerns.

It was noted that those in attendance were anxious to sit down with someone in a position of authority to discuss the concerns.

The Chair asked that the Committee be kept informed and if required, a letter will be sent from the Committee.

4.4 CROSSWALK ISSUE - ROCKINGHAM AND OTHERS FROM STATUS SHEET

Ms. MacDonald updated the Committee on the issue of the need for a **crosswalk guard** in the area of a school attended by a deaf child. The situation faced by Ms. Beaver had been brought to the Committee's attention previously. The Chair noted that there is nothing further the Committee can do relative to this situation. He noted that it is not only the number of students but other variables which are taken into account when determining where crosswalk guards are employed.

It was suggested that Ms. MacDonald contact the area Councillor, Diane Whalen to ask staff to do a report. She was asked to report back to the Committee on the outcome.

Ms. Langille also described the situation faced on Flamingo Drive associated with bus stop number 1698. The closest crosswalk is 250 meters away, involving walking along a very busy street. It was suggested that Ms. Langille discuss the situation with Councillor Whalen. The Chair noted that the only thing the Committee can do is raise awareness, it has no authority. Ms. Brown referred to a similar problem she faces on Denith Road.

In the interim, it was suggested that if the members have any ideas or suggestions of what should be included in the criteria for location of crosswalks or crossing guards, they send her an e-mail.

The Chair asked Ms. Williams to contact Mr. McCusker to see how other municipalities handle such situations.

4.5 BARRIER-FREE DESIGN DISCUSSION PAPER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Copies of a questionnaire submitted by Ms. Coffey were included in the agenda package. At the meeting, three more submissions were provided to the Clerk. They were from Bob Venus, Maureen Reynolds and Anne Langille. Ms. Reynolds noted that she had omitted to add a reference to dryer vents in her submission. The Clerk will make this change before sending them in.

Ms. LeGay queried how she can provide her response to the questionnaire as a blind person. The Clerk will contact her and relay the methods available.

4.6 TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

Ms. LeGay asked that this item, pertaining to research of government services programs, be removed from the agenda. If something comes up, she will provide the information to Jackie MacLachlan.

4.7 DRAFT TO COUNCIL RE CNIB BUS PASSES

Ms. Williams will provide for the November meeting. She will consult with Councillor Meade and Mr. Hindle in the interim. She will bring to the Committee for approval. Ms. Coffey asked that the report contain suggestions made at previous meetings. Ms. Williams explained that she did not feel this would be a good idea, as the Committee had not come to consensus and something might be left out. She proposed that the report be very generic and the complexities of the subject be illustrated. Essentially the subject be redirected back to Council, noting the need to engage in a broader process.

SIGN TIMBERLEA AREA - CAUTION HEARING IMPAIRED PERSON

Before departing the meeting early, Ms. MacDonald reported that a sign has been put up in the Timberlea area alerting motorists that there is a hearing impaired person in the area. The deaf individual residing there does not like the wording. It was asked that the item be placed on next month's agenda. In the interim, it was suggested that Mr. McCusker, Traffic Authority be contacted.

INTERPRETERS - REGIONAL COUNCIL

It was noted that although funds are available for this service until the end of November, there are no interpreters available. The item will be added to the next agenda.

4.8 HRM PARKS CONTROL RE POINT PLEASANT PARK

Ms. Brown advised that a response has been received from Mr. Sampson last week. He acknowledged he had overlooked some things. He will bring the concerns raised at the September meeting to the attention of the Point Pleasant Park Committee at their February meeting, to ensure the situation is rectified for next year. Ms. Brown reflected that the response had been positive.

WORKSHOP- COMMUNITY ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

Ms. Brown referred to her involvement with Community Action on Homelessness. She attended a workshop, but no organizational meeting has been held since. She will update the Committee on progress.

JAWS SOFTWARE

Ms. Brown advised that she has been taking training related to a software package for the totally blind.

4.9 LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO COUNCILLOR SARTO AND HOME DEPOT RE ACCESSIBLE PARK WOODLAWN, DISTRICT 7/MOUNT EDWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Venus provided a draft of a report he prepared, at the request of the Committee, related to the above. It was noted that the park has been named in honor of Councillor Sarto's many years of outstanding public service to Woodlawn and the community in general. The Committee members were encouraged to visit the playground.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 CORRESPONDENCE - REQUEST FOR HELP RE ACCESS TO METRO TRANSIT/ACCESS-A-BUS SERVICES

- C e-mail from Ms. Clarke regarding concerns that Metro Transit and/or Access-a-Bus services don't provide service to Fall River.

The e-mail was referred to Mr. Hindle. He will contact Ms. Clarke and explain that Fall River is outside the Metro Transit Service Area. It was suggested that his reply to Ms. Clarke be copied to Councillor Hines. Councillor Hines might decide to do a survey to determine if there is support in the area to extend the boundary. Some routes are covered by an Area Rate.

5.2 SIDEWALK CAFES

The correspondence from Mr. Rutt had been originally circulated at the September meeting. It was noted that brailled copies have yet to be provided.

The Committee discussed where the issue of sidewalk cafes stands. It was recalled the Kevin Barrett had drafted a proposal, which did not go over well with the industry. It was noted that there are inspectors in place and if any problems with side walk cafes are reported they will investigate. Licenses are issued annually, so such infractions are worth noting.

The Chair will contact Mr. Rutt and the Clerk was asked to forward the correspondence to Kevin Barrett. Mr. Barrett will be invited to the next meeting to provide the Committee with an update.

5.3 RESIGNATION OF VICE-CHAIR

- C Letter from Ms. Cale dated August 27, 2002 advising she would be unable to attend meetings from September 2002 to January 2003.

Upon reviewing the terms of reference adopted in March 2000, it was agreed that Ms. Cale could continue with the remainder of her current term upon her return in February.

MOVED BY Councilor Meade, seconded by Ms. Coffey that Ms. Cale could continue with the remainder of her current term upon her return in February. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Her resignation as Vice-Chair was accepted, but the election to this position was deferred to the first meeting in January 2003, when both the election of the Chair and

Vice-Chair will be held.

Membership Applications: A general discussion followed on the terms of reference adopted March 21, 2000 specifying “that all appointments shall be for a two year term. Members may be re-appointed for no more than three consecutive terms” and whether this was retroactive. Ms. Williams recalled giving notice last year that individuals who have been on the Committee for this length of time, should take a year off before reapplying. She felt this approach would encourage broader participation from a cross section of the community by encouraging members to lobby individuals to apply. She also noted that if the members determine someone is interested in applying, it is not too late. Their applications can be put on file and if a vacancy occurs during the year, they would be considered for appointment.

5.4 OMG ATLANTIC - SIDEWALK RECEPTACLES

Deferred.

5.5 HOUSING ISSUES “LIVE AT FIVE”

Information on an ATV news program “Live at Five” focusing on a housing issue was provided in the agenda package.

5.6 DESIGN GUIDELINES

Deferred.

5.7 ACCESSIBLE GAS STATIONS

Deferred.

5.8 ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUNDS

Deferred.

INFORMATION ITEM

Councillor Meade circulated information related to West Nova Persons with Disabilities.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 18, 2002 p.m. - Training Room, 3rd Floor Duke Street Tower

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Lynne Le Boutillier
Assistant Municipal Clerk