

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

**PRESENT:** Ms. Betty MacDonald, Chair (4:38 pm)  
Ms. Peggy Brown  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Ms. Barbara LeGay  
Ms. Maureen Reynolds  
Ms. Cynthia Street  
Mr. Bob Venus  
Councillor Meade  
Councillor Sarto

**ABSENT:** Ms. Jane Cale (regrets)  
Ms. Sally Campbell (regrets)  
Ms. Elsie Cholette  
Mr. Patrick Harrington (regrets)  
Ms. Anne Langille (regrets)  
Mr. Donald Mullins (regrets)

**STAFF:** Mr. Kevin Hindle, Metro Transit  
Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Program Coordinator  
Roxanne MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management (TDM)  
Coordinator for HRM  
, Interpretor  
, Interpretor  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Joanne Coffey called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. Ms. Betty MacDonald assumed the Chair at 4:38 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 16, 2003 AND JULY 21, 2003**

**Correction:** Ms. Joanne Coffey is to be added to the list of those present at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as she was in attendance.

**MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Sarto that the minutes of June 16, 2003 be approved as circulated and the minutes of July 21, 2003 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**ADDITIONS:**

- 6.3 Access-a-bus at Point Pleasant Park - Peggy Brown
- 6.4 Membership for this Committee - Joanne Coffey
- 6.5 Conference on Homelessness - Peggy Brown

**MOVED BY Councillor Sarto, seconded by Ms. Barbara LeGay that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 Status Sheet

4.1.1 Wheelchair Accessible Taxis - Mr. Harrington

Deferred to October meeting.

4.1.2 Access-a-Bus Subsidy/or Accessible Taxi Subsidy - Mr. Harrington

Deferred to October meeting.

4.1.3 Housing for the Environmentally Sensitive Report - Maureen Reynolds

Deferred to October meeting.

4.1.4 Halifax Association for Community Living Family Support - Betty MacDonald

This item has been completed.

4.1.5 Presentation to Regional Council October

Ms. Joanne Coffey will prepare a draft Annual Report to be reviewed by the Committee at the October meeting. The date for presentation in October will be confirmed with the Municipal Clerk's Office.

4.1.6 Research on Use of Ultraviolet Light to Disinfect Public Pools - Maureen Reynolds

Not dealt with at this time.

4.1.7 Pedway - HDL - Charla Williams

Not dealt with at this time.

4.1.8 Reimbursement for Travel - Joanne Coffey

Not dealt with at this time.

4.1.9 Capital District Urban Design Project Public Meeting (August)

Not dealt with at this time.

**5. REPORTS - None**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission - Older Parents Caring for Adult Sons and Daughters with Disabilities - Atlantic Regional Issue Paper

- ! A letter dated, July 21, 2003, from the Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission was before the Committee.
- ! A copy of the Atlantic Region Issue Paper from the Centre on Aging Nova Scotia, July 2003,
- ! no braille copies were available

The Committee was unsure of where this item originated and agreed that it be dealt with as an information item and that no further action be required.

The Committee requested the Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission be contacted and informed that braille copies would be required for all future correspondence and a braille copy of this letter and article would be appreciated. Further, that a copy of the NSDPC report, to be completed by August, be requested and included in the October agenda package.

## 6.2 Apartment Buildings (new construction) - Wheelchair Accessible

Councillor Meade commented that presently there are no provisions in HRM for new developments to have accessible units included with their developments. Ms. Coffey advised that not only are accessible units not being considered, but accessible access to the buildings in the new developments is not considered. She gave an example of one such building being developed on Belle Aire Terrace that is not accessible. Ms. Peggy Brown advised that the provincial housing policy does not have the word "accessible" in their policy. She provided a list of accessible units from the Metro Regional Housing Authority (List of Seniors Units) and added there is not one unit available for rent at the present time.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that new apartment/condominium developments throughout HRM should provide a percentage of that construction as accessible units. Further clarification of the term "accessible" led to the determination that "accessible" shall be inclusive of those individuals who are deaf, blind, in wheelchairs and also to those with environmental sensitivities.

**MOVED BY Councillor Gary Meade, seconded by Councillor Condo Sarto that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommend to Regional Council the inclusion of accessible units for persons with disabilities in all new residential developments throughout HRM. Further, that the accessible units be inclusive of the requirements to those persons with disabilities affecting hearing, sight, mobility and chemical sensitivities. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee listed the following as points of consideration for accessible units:

- ! Mobility - wheelchair accessibility - installation of ramps, lower door handles, counters and faucets, etc.
- ! Deaf/Hearing - installation of a light on building security code pads to indicate admission to a security building where currently a buzzing sound is the only indication you are being given permission to enter.
- ! Blind/Visual - braille and large print numbers on elevators, apartment doors and security code pads.
- ! Chemical Sensitivities - review use of carpets and chemicals etc.

The Committee further suggested a 20% accessible unit minimum for HRM be considered for all new residential developments.

### 6.3 Access-a-bus at Point Pleasant Park - Peggy Brown

Ms. Brown expressed concern with the Access-a-Bus not picking up the DIAL group at the monument site after a BBQ in Point Pleasant Park on Saturday, September 13, 2003. She explained the group had to walk from the monument site to the parking lot (canteen area) in order to board the waiting bus. She added the distance over gravel/sand pathways created difficulty for those in wheelchairs/with canes/blind. She further explained there were no guides for assistance.

Ms. Brown added that an Access-a-bus had been organized to take the group to the park and that arrangements had been made with Mr. Arthur Sampson, Point Pleasant Park, for park patrol to escort the vehicle to and from the monument. Ms. Brown advised that the escort was not available when they arrived at the park as it was called away to an emergency. She further explained that on departure the Access-a-bus would not enter the park beyond the canteen area as there was no escort.

Mr. Kevin Hindle, Metro Transit, advised the group should have reported the incident to Metro Transit right away and added that he would investigate the matter.

### 6.4 Membership for this Committee - Barb LeGay

A Volunteer Application Form will be sent in the next agenda package to those members whose terms will be expiring in November 2003. A braille copy of the Volunteer Application form was provided to Committee members by request. There is a braille copy available at the Municipal Clerk's Office for public information. Information may be phoned in to the Municipal Clerk's Office at 490-4212 for those persons who use the braille form. The contact information is on the application form.

The Committee requested a copy of their previous application forms be sent for reference when completing the new forms. Discussion ensued regarding recruiting new members to sit on the Committee and clarification for the October meeting was requested regarding the maximum number able to serve on this Committee.

### 6.5 Conference on Homelessness - Peggy Brown

Ms. Brown advised there would be a conference on homelessness held on October 2 and 3, 2003 and encouraged all to attend as it is a very informative session.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Monday, October 20, 2003
8. **ADJOURNMENT** - adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant