

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**MINUTES**

**April 10, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Gary Meade  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Terry Myer  
Kevin Bulley  
Helen Cianfaglione  
Gary Russell

**REGRETS:** Mary Wallworth  
Betty Macdonald

**STAFF:** Ms. Charla Williams, Diversity Coordinator  
Superintendent Cliff Falkenham  
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m..

The Chair introduced Mr. Gary Russell, a new member of the Committee. He also advised the Committee that Mr. Patrick Harrington, Mr. Charles Burnell and Mr. Warren Reed have submitted their resignations.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Mr. Bulley, that the minutes of the February 20, 2006 meeting be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Addition:

8.1 Appointment to Taxi Committee

Move item 4.1.2 to be the first order of business.

The Committee accepted the agenda as presented.

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

**4.1 Status Sheet**

**4.1.2 City Hall Audit - Update**

- A report dated January 2006, entitled Accessibility Audit Old Halifax City Hall was before the Committee.

Mr. Townsend, Manager Capital Projects, advised the Committee of the following:

- He contracted a consultant to conduct an Accessibility Audit of City Hall.
- Some issues that were identified cannot be addressed due to the age of the building and the fact that it is a heritage building.
- He met with building inspections staff to ensure that the facility can be upgraded without violating the building code.

- The second and third floor washrooms and the Argyle Street entrance has been identified as priorities and that \$20,000 has been allocated in the 2006-2007 budget to address these issues.

Ms. Cynthia Street, Consultant, advised that the elevator shaft cannot accommodate a larger elevator and suggested that a smaller wheelchair be available for persons to transfer to if required.

Mr. Townsend stated that the difficulty is trying to increase the size of the washrooms and ensuring compliance with the building code. He is currently considering the installation of automatic door openers.

Mr. Townsend requested feedback and recommendations from the Committee prior to proceeding with the upgrades.

A discussion ensued regarding the annual report to Council. Councillor Meade recommended that the Consultant present the audit report to Council during the Committees annual presentation to Council. Councillor Murphy commented that this is an opportunity to increase Councils awareness and appreciation of persons with disabilities.

**MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities accept the report and staffs recommendation to proceed with accessibility upgrades to the second and third floor washrooms and Argyle Street entrance. Further, that the Consultant present the report to Council as part of the Committee's annual presentation to Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4.1.1 Membership - Terms of Reference**

The Committee raised concern regarding the resignations of members of the Committee as well as the membership selection process given the lack of persons appointed with disabilities.

A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that a range of diversity of persons with disabilities would be beneficial to the Committee to gain a broader understanding of the issues affecting persons with disabilities. It was also suggested that the terms of reference be amended to include representatives from other organizations that provide services/assistance to persons with disabilities.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**5.1 Election of Vice Chair**

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Mr. Bulley that the election of Vice Chair be deferred until the membership is at a full complement. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Annual Report to Council**

Discussed as part of item 4.1.2. See page 4

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Appointment to Taxi Committee**

Due to the recent resignation of Mr. Patrick Harrington, who was appointed as the Advisory Committee Persons with Disabilities representative on the Taxi Committee, the Chair called for volunteers to serve on the Taxi Committee.

Mr. Bully volunteered to represent the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. With no further volunteers the following motion was placed.

**MOVED BY Councillor Murphy, seconded by Ms. Cianfaglione, that Mr. Bully be appointed to the Taxi Committee as a representative of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 15, 2006.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.**

Stephanie Parsons  
Legislative Assistant