

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

June 19, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Gary Meade
Mr. Terry Myer, Chair
Mr. Kevin Bulley
Mr. Helen Cianfaglione
Mr. Betty Macdonald
Mr. Gary Russell

REGRETS: Councillor Murphy
Ms. Mary Wallworth

STAFF: Ms. Tatajana Zazetalo
Superintendent Cliff Falkenham
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 10, 2006

MOVED by Mr. Gary Russell, seconded by Mr. Kevin Bulley, that the minutes of the April 10, 2006 meeting be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The Committee accepted the agenda as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Presentations

6.1.1 Committee for Inclusive Transportation

- A copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled Committee For Inclusive Transportation was before the Committee.
- A document entitled Taxi Saver Program was circulated to the Committee.
- An invitation to the grand opening of the Westmount Inclusive Playground Park was distributed to the Committee.

Councillor Meade entered the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Ms. Joanne Coffey gave a presentation on the Committee for Inclusive Transportation's concerns regarding accessible taxis. The following concerns were noted:

- Lack of accessible transportation,
- The delay in sidewalk snow removal,
- Corner curb cuts and crosswalk signal areas,
- Accessible taxis work in non restrictive zones,
- Four accessible taxis provides inadequate service to wheelchair users,
- Licences for rooflights are available, however the cost of operating accessible taxis is very expensive,

- Grants are limited,

Ms. Coffey suggested the following changes:

- Change zoning regulations from non restrictive to restrictive,
- Enact legislation to require a percentage of all taxis be accessible,
- Create a municipal grants program to assist accessible taxis,
- Partner with the Taxi and Limousine Committee to investigate ways accessible taxis can become a viable part of the taxi industry.

A discussion ensued regarding the lack of accessible taxis, the difficulty in booking a taxi. The Chair suggested that an argument can be made on the basis that Nova Scotia has the highest percentage of disabled persons in Canada and therefore require more accessible cabs and require more funding. From a human rights perspective, an argument can be made that persons with disabilities are being denied a service.

6.1.2 Cultural Advisory Committee

- A document entitled Cultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference dated May 1, 2006 was circulated to the committee.

Ms. Holly Richardson, Regional Coordinator, Culture and Heritage, addressed the Committee, the following was noted:

- HRM is currently recruiting members for a new Cultural Advisory Committee to implement the Cultural Plan,
- As per the Cultural Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference she is requesting that the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities appoint a member to the Cultural Advisory Committee,
- Appointing a member from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will provide an opportunity for the Committee's concerns to be built into the Cultural Plan.

Mr. Gary Russell volunteered to serve on the Committee. With no further volunteers the following motion was placed:

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Mr. Falkenham that Mr. Gary Russell be appointed to the Cultural Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee agreed that the scheduled meeting of July 17, 2006 will be held if required. The next regular scheduled meeting is September 18, 2006.

The Chair requested that the Committee give consideration to the idea of a Nova Scotia Disabilities Act. In September the Committee will decide what direction they are going to take and create a work plan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant

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