

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair
Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice Chair
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Mr. Troy Nauffts
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Mr. Brian Aird
Mr. Jack Jones

REGRET: Mr. Gary Russell
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Mr. Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure
and Asset Management

STAFF: Supt. Cliff Falkenham, HRP
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 17, 2010

Ms. McFadyen indicated that at the top of page 11 the bullet regarding Global Positioning Systems in taxis, should be noted as follows:

Global Positioning Systems do have the capacity to audibly announce fares; patrons with no or low vision cannot read fares and rely on the driver's integrity to verbally announce the fare

MOVED by Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, seconded by Ms. Helen McFadyen, that the minutes of May 17, 2010 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions:

- 6.1 Presentation
 - 6.1.1 Sherry Costa - Integrated Recreational and Leisure Program for Persons with Disabilities in HRM
- 8.1 Helen McFadyen - Halifax Service Dog Park Announcement
- 8.2 Helen McFadyen - HRM Spring/Summer Street Maintenance
- 8.3 Discussion re: Dartmouth Bridge Terminal

MOVED by Ms. Helen McFadyen, seconded by Councillor Mary Wile, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED ITEMS

4.1 Councillor Wile - Harlington Crescent Wheelchair Ramp

Councillor Wile indicated that the curb cut/wheelchair ramp has been installed at Harlington Crescent.

4.2 New Halifax Central Library

Mr. George Cotaras, Vice President and General Manager of Fowler Bauld & Mitchell and Principle Architect for the new Halifax Central Library, provided an update of the new Halifax Central Library. Highlights were as follows:

- a presentation was delivered to the Mayor and members of Council on June 10, 2010; on that same night, a public consultation meeting was held in the McInnes Room of Dalhousie University

- the library is presently in the design stages; Mr. Cotaras is looking for the Committee's input during the design and construction phases of the library

Mr. Cotaras read from the firm's proposal that was submitted to the Municipality respecting their opinion of universal accessibility. He noted that incorporating the principles of universal design benefits not only disabled and elderly persons but also the population at large, including people of all ages, sizes and abilities. By tailoring a design to a broad range of cognitive, sensory and mobility capacities, it is possible to design an inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of people within society and removes all unnecessary barriers.

The Committee entered into discussion with Mr. Cotaras responding to questions.

Ms. McFadyen suggested having brail labelling on the DVD and CD collections.

Mr. Nauffts recommended the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's book *Clearing Our Path* to Mr. Cotaras as a potential reference respecting accessibility.

Further points were noted by Mr. Cotaras:

- the new library's program area will be 115,000 square feet, spanned over multiple levels and will include parking
- accessibility within the new facility will supercede HRM's present libraries
- the building site is located on the Southeast side of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street
- textiled models have been built to assist with reviewing the dimensions of the building

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern regarding the new library's capacity and its staffing respecting its evacuation procedures. She provided an example where people have been abandoned in wheelchairs during an evacuation of a public building. She noted the importance of staff identifying and outlining the library's safety procedures and evaluation plan related to persons with disabilities and those that require assistance.

4.3 HRM Pole Mounted Garbage Cans

- Correspondence regarding HRM Public Place Litter Receptacle Program was circulated to the Committee for review.

Mr. Don Pellerine, Superintendent - Streets, Municipal Operations, Transportation and Public Works, provided an overview of the HRM Public Place Litter Receptacle Program to the Committee. The following points were noted:

- pole mounted cans are typically installed 40-48 inches from ground level; some cans may be installed higher/lower depending on special circumstances
- ground mounted waste bins are 24 inches tall

- HRM's does not install litter receptacles for the purpose of collecting dog faeces; these types of installations are generally done for parks, playgrounds and sports fields
- litter receptacles within the street's right-of-way are typically installed at bus stops which experience high use volume or are in close proximity to mixed use businesses

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern as to where she should dispose her service dog's waste prior to getting onto the bus if a waste bin is not close by. She noted that she has made numerous requests to have a pole mounted can installed at the corner of Tower Road and Harbourview Drive. The driver and passengers would not appreciate her disposing of the waste in the bus bin. She is presently disposing the waste in the street, which is upsetting many residents in her area. There is no waste receptacle within three blocks of her bus stop.

Mr. Pellerine confirmed that many residential neighbourhoods do not have waste receptacles. Ms. McFadyen further indicated that her bus stop is close to schools, a university and a day care. Mr. Pellerine advised that HRM staff does not have the ability to install a waste can at a location where an individual has a dog. However, given the special circumstances such as a guide dog, consideration could be given to amend HRM's criteria to address these situations.

Further points noted by Mr. Pellerine were as follows:

- HRM's waste cans are emptied daily or every second day depending on the level of waste
- there are no set standard as to where waste cans are installed; areas throughout HRM vary in needs
- installations are typically done at street corners to avoid blocking traffic when emptying the bins
- pole mounted cans are typically installed on preexisting lamp posts
- stand alone waste bins are also placed along the street's right-of-way; some bins are anchor bolted to the concrete sidewalks to avoid being tipped over
- pole mounted cans are not installed at every Metro Transit bus stop

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern regarding certain locations where waste bins are installed, commenting that many are difficult to access due to snow banks and mud.

Mr. Nauffts expressed concern regarding the height of a pole mounted can located at the bus stop on Astro Drive, Cole Harbour. He has contacted HRM's Call Centre to request that the can be repaired and lowered.

4.4 Metro Transit's Accessibility *(deferred from May 17, 2010)*

The following correspondence was before the Committee for review:

- Correspondence from the Visually Impaired Safe Advocates Committee (VISTA) submitted by way of email on April 19, 2010.

- Correspondence from Lori Patterson, Manager, Marketing & Communications, Metro Transit, dated May 13, 2010.
- Correspondence from Tiffany Chase, Coordinator, Marketing & Communications, Metro Transit, dated June 18, 2010.

Ms. Barb Legay, Chair of VISTA, provided an overview of VISTA's April 19th email that had been before the Committee during their April 19th and May 17, 2010 meetings for review.

VISTA is concerned that the Committee and Regional Council's recommendations respecting Metro Transit's Five Year Plan on Accessibility are not being met. Ms. LeGay commented that she has not seen any guidelines implemented by Metro Transit with respect to time lines. She further expressed concern with Metro Transit moving forward with construction of the new bus terminal in Dartmouth, noting that it is not fully accessible as staff is indicating. She suggested that the Committee make a recommendation to Council that Metro Transit establish a defined time frame regarding how their Five Year Plan will be implemented respecting accessibility.

The Chair suggested that VISTA's April 19th email be added to the Committee's report to Council.

Following a brief Committee discussion, Ms. McFadyen indicated that she would draft a recommendation for the Committee's review at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed to defer this matter to the next meeting to allow for further review and discussion regarding recommendations to Council.

4.5 2010 Work Plan

- A copy of the 2010 Committee of Council Annual Work Plan was before the Committee.

This item was deferred to the next meeting to allow Mr. Townsend to provide input.

5. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Presentations

6.1.1 Sherry Costa - Integrated Recreational and Leisure Program for Persons with Disabilities in HRM

Ms. Sherry Costa, Project Coordinator with Independent Living, delivered a presentation to the Committee regarding the Integrated Recreational and Leisure Program for persons with disabilities within HRM. She noted that an advisory committee is being formed in relation to the program and asked whether members of

the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities are interested in volunteering on the program's advisory committee.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee requested that Ms. Costa provide additional information regarding the program. It was noted that the Committee will not be appointing a representative and individual members interested in becoming active with the Program's advisory committee could contact Ms. Costa directly.

7. REPORTS - NONE

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Helen McFadyen - Halifax Service Dog Park Announcement

Ms. McFadyen announced that TV Ontario will be coming to Halifax on June 22, 2010 to do an interview with her regarding the formation of the Halifax Service Dog Park. She commented that Councillor Wile will also provide brief interview on behalf of the Committee. The story will air November/December 2010 in Ontario. Once aired, other television networks will have the ability to run the story.

8.2 Helen McFadyen - HRM Spring/Summer Street Maintenance

Ms. McFadyen expressed concern regarding the overgrowth of tree limbs and hedges that overhang and block pathways. She indicated that the overgrowth impedes her ability to travel safely down sidewalks and she is often struck in the face with branches. She asked that a reminder be sent out to HRM and its residents to keep their hedges and trees trimmed.

Following a brief discussion, Councillor Wile advised that she would provide a friendly reminder during the special announcements portion of Regional Council June 22, 2010 session.

8.3 Discussion re: Dartmouth Bridge Terminal

Item 8.3 was deferred to the next meeting to allow for Mr. Townsend's input.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATES - July 19, 2010 & August 16, 2010 (if required)
- September 20, 2010**

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to cancel the July 19th meeting and hold their next regular meeting on August 16, 2010.

Ms. McFadyen exited the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Joe Dacey, resident of HRM, expressed concern regarding the Committee's process, commenting that many items/issues are often being discussed for long periods

of time. He further expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Committee and noted that he will be submitting an application for review.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

June 21, 2010

1. Letter to Steve Rodgers, President of Automotive Parts Manufacture's Association, dated June 8, 2010.
2. Letter to Marc Brazeau, President of Automotive Industries Association of Canada, dated June 8, 2010.
3. Letter to Donald E. Moore, Executive Director of Canadian Transportation Equipment Association, dated June 8, 2010.
4. Letter to Richard C. Gauthier, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Automobile Dealers Association, dated June 8, 2010.
5. Letter to David C. Adams, President of Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada, dated June 8, 2010.
6. Letter to Yoichi Tomihara, Chairman of Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association of Canada, dated June 8, 2010.