

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES**

September 15, 2008

PRESENT: Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair
Mr. Gary Russell, Vice-Chair
Ms. Rebecca King
Mr. Alan Farquhar
Mr. Tom Boyd
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Ms. Sanaz Gerami
Councillor Patrick Murphy

REGRETS: Ms. Joanne Coffey
Councillor Mary Wile

STAFF: Superintendent Cliff Falkenham - Patrol Division (HRP)
Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair, in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. McFadyen asked members of the Committee and all speakers to identify him/herself audibly for clarification on the record.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** -July 21, 2008

MOVED BY Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Ms. King , that the minutes of July 21, 2008 be approved, as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions:

- 9.1 Darrell Wentzell and Eldon Hubley - Spryfield Lion's Club.
- 9.2 Invite to Councillor Adams and Kevin Hindle (Bylaw enforcement officer)
- 9.3 Wheelchair Accessible Polling Stations

Deletions:

Agenda Item # 5.1 will be deleted until correct contact person is located.

Amendments:

Item #5.5 will be presented first as 5.1.

MOVED BY Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Russell, that the order of business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 **Ms. Kelly Atkins - IWK Physiotherapy Department**

Ms. Atkins came before the ACPD to discuss accessibility concerns for Mainland Common. The Chair introduced Ms. Margaret Soley, Manager, Facility Development and Mr. Terry Gallagher, Coordinator, Capital Projects - Buildings for clarification, as they are involved with

the Mainland Common project. Ms. Atkins expressed her concerns for the lack of accessibility for the aquatic component of the facility that is being built at Mainland Common. Clarification was given on the following:

- The new facility should provide sports/leisure activities for persons with disabilities in addition to rehabilitation
- Transitions of level will be minimized by ramps and stairs (2 floors)
- Corridors are planned to be wide and open to avoid restriction
- Working with Sports Nova Scotia regarding the sports that will be planned for the facility
- The main pool will have a hydraulic floor
- A needs assessment should be done to ascertain potential participation of persons with disabilities
- When parents are aware that an accessible facility is available, they will bring their children
- The aquatic proponent will be in place by February 2011 for the Canada Games

5.2 Report or Presentation - Mr. Jerry Singleton

Mr. Singleton advised the ACPD that he wants the Committee to identify the top items they want him to look at. He reiterated the points discussed in the June 16, 2008 meeting of the ACPD, advising that the Committee needs to give him clear instructions on where to begin. He further advised that he could bring in some students and go through a strategic planning process with the Committee. He stated that he is accessible to facilitate questions the Committee may have. He advised that the research would be a continuous process and he could get other students to work on it each term.

The Committee members expressed difficulty in deciding which areas of accessibility need to be handled first as all accessibility issues are of equal importance. The Committee will request representation from the Community Development Department to provide some feedback on what programs are accessible and other challenges that may be present.

The ACPD will continue to discuss this, electronically, to ensure they will have something concrete to move forward on before the next meeting of October 20, 2008.

5.3 Mr. Phil Townsend - Disbursement of 200K for Disability Related Repairs/Retrofits

The following items were discussed for disability related repairs and retrofits:

- An accessible bathroom for the Shakespeare-by-the-Sea building in Point Pleasant Park
- No fully accessible trails in HRM. The Chair spoke to Mr. Paul Euloth - Regional Trail Coordinator, at which time he promised there will be at least one by next year
- The Chair will continue to attempt to contact Ms. Anne Wambolt, Sports & Community

- Events Coordinator
- Things [ramps, etc.] that need to be done outside should be done first as the season's are changing.
- Further discussion regarding an HRM service dog run
- A door opener to get into the Alderney Landing Parkade (\$5,000)
- A power door for the Fairbanks Centre (exterior door) \$5,000
- Upgrade of the existing bathroom and ramp for Shakespeare-by-the-Sea (\$10,000)
- The Dartmouth Ferry terminal washroom will remain on the list

**MOVED by Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Farquhar, that the HRM Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities recommend that Mr. Phil Townsend recommends that Regional Council allot \$20,000 towards the Fairbanks Centre, Alderney Landing parkade, and the Shakespeare-by-the-Sea washroom in Point Pleasant Park .
MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Mr. Farquhar suggested the ACPD get together another 'shopping' list for the remainder of the funds.

The Chair requested that Mr. Townsend draw up a list of what has already been disbursed for the next meeting of the Committee.

5.4 Updates on Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) and Taxi and Limousine Committee (Gary Russell)

Mr. Russell informed the Committee that the last meetings for both the Cultural Advisory Committee and Taxi and Limousine Committee were cancelled, therefore no updates were available. He advised that, technically, the Cultural Advisory Committee no longer exists. He further advised that Councillor Uteck has to bring it to Council.

Mr. Russell advised that the Taxi and Limousine Committee has met only three times this year for a lack of agenda items. He advised that Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams proposed that a fee increase be established each year for the taxi commission but there was no meeting called to discuss this. Mr. Russell suggested that the Deputy Mayor and Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Services, should be invited to a ACPD meeting for discussion on accessibility issues and taxicabs.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

The Committee discussed the emails circulated in the agenda package for clarification, accordingly with the agenda items that pertained to them.

Mr. Rutt volunteered to contact Pat Meagher, Supervisor, Special Services - Metro Transit,

regarding the Spring Garden Road landing pad. The Chair will draft a letter to the following persons, along with copies of correspondence received by the ACPD regarding the landing pad and the tender:

MOVED BY Councillor Murphy, seconded by Mr. Russell, that the ACPD send Mr. Eldon Hubley, Mr. Michel Bourgeois and Mr. Bruce Gates correspondence with a copy to Councillor Sue Uteck, regarding the Access-a-Bus landing area at Spring Garden Road. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

Councillor Murphy discussed the email he sent to the Chair and advised that he would attempt to get Mr. David Hubley to a future ACPD meeting.

Ms. Gerami retired from the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

8. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

Mr. Rutt congratulated the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities on always making quorum and coming to the scheduled meetings and doing their duty.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Mr. Darrell Wentzell - Spryfield Lions Arena

Mr. Russell advised the ACPD that he had spoken to Mr. Wentzell and he, along with Mr. Eldon Hubley, will attend the next meeting of the ACPD on October 20, 2008 and present their proposal for building accessibility funding for the Spryfield Lions Arena. Mr. Russell further advised that the facility is HRM owned and should be given consideration.

9.2 Invitation to Councillor Adams and Mr. Kevin Hindle - ByLaw Enforcement Officer

See Item 5.4

9.3 Wheelchair Accessible Polling Stations

Mr. Russell suggested that the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities check with the election officials to ensure that the voting facilities are wheelchair accessible. Ms. McFadyen will contact Linda Grant, HRM Returning Officer.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will be October 20, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd floor, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Sandra T. Riley
Legislative Assistant