

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

---

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

February 21, 2011

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair  
Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice Chair  
Ms. Mary Newcombe  
Mr. Brian Airde  
Mr. Troy Nauffts

REGRETS: Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Mr. Gary Russell  
Mr. Jack Jones

STAFF: Mr. Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset  
Management  
Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 15, 2010 & January 17, 2011 .....	3
3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS .....	3
4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS .....	3
4.1 2010 Work Plan.....	3
5. NEW BUSINESS – NONE .....	4
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE .....	4
6.1 Correspondence.....	4
6.1.1 Taxi Service - Ms. McFadyen.....	5
6.1.2 Metro Transit Service .....	5
6.2 Petitions – None .....	5
6.3 Presentations .....	5
6.3.1 Blind Sports Nova Scotia .....	5
7. REPORTS – NONE .....	5
8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE .....	5
9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, March 21, 2011 .....	5
10. ADJOURNMENT .....	6

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Duke Room 1, Duke Tower, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 15, 2010 & January 17, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Ms. Horwill, that the minutes of November 15, 2010 & January 17, 2011 as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Ms. Horwill, that the Order of Business, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**4.1 2010 Work Plan**

Mr. Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, advised the Committee that staff have compiled a short list of projects. He added that staff has worked to prioritize projects based on value for work, needs and building usage. He added that some projects will be done in 2011/12 while others are planned up to 2015/16.

Discussion ensued among Committee members regarding the 2010 Work Plan. The following items were noted as requiring further investigation:

- Dartmouth Ferry Terminal accessible washroom accessibility is poor; the Commissionaire should have a button at his/her site to open the washroom
- The door and threshold at Bloomfield Centre is in very poor condition
- A number of facilities are not accessible when they have round door knobs and round sink faucets, it was noted that paddle type door knobs and faucets are more accessible
- The doors at Dartmouth Sportsplex contain bar handles making them less accessible, as they hook persons in wheelchairs at the shoulder level
- There are no yellow strips on the steps at the Halifax Forum
- There is no accessible door at the Grey Arena washroom
- The viewing wheelchair area at the Grey Arena is too low
- Accessibility signage in HRM facilities is poor
- There is no push door access between the dressing room and the arena at the Four Pad Arena for sledge hockey
- There are no accessible doors at the change rooms at the Centennial Pool

- There are four heavy non-automatic doors located near the elevator in Alderney Landing
- There is no accessible entrance to the Civic Arena from the Civic Arena on Windsor and Young Streets; however, handicapped parking is available in the lot at the site.

In response to a question by Ms. Horwill, Mr. Townsend advised that the Tallahassee Community Centre is owned by the Halifax Regional School Board and that HRM is not responsible for the building.

Ms. Horwill advised that as she and Mr. Boyd visited HRM facilities, many of the HRM staff were not aware of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. She expressed the need for the Committee to become better known throughout HRM.

**MOVED by Ms. Horwill, seconded by Ms. Newcombe, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disability request HRM staff investigate costing for projects on the work list and report back to the Committee the findings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Wile suggested that at times it may be more beneficial for individual sites to get quotes on smaller projects.

Mr. Horwill stated that in visiting Alderney Landing, she and Mr. Boyd were advised that staff have come up with a solution to the door issue at Alderney Landing Parkade.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4.2 2011 Work Plan**

Mr. Boyd stated that the 2011 Work Plan is an ongoing project.

Discussion ensued among the Committee members regarding the implementation of the brochure, *Important Information For Taxi Drivers in HRM About Passengers with Disabilities*.

**MOVED by Ms. Horwill, seconded by Ms. Newcombe, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities send the information, *Important Information For Taxi Drivers in HRM About Passengers with Disabilities* to the Regional Coordinator of Taxi & Limousine Services. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **.5. NEW BUSINESS – NONE**

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – NONE**

##### **6.1 Correspondence**

### **6.1.1 Taxi Service - Ms. McFadyen**

Correspondence from Ms. Helen McFadyen was before the Committee.

It was noted that Councillor Adams advised Ms. MacFadyen to contact the Taxi Company in relation to this issue.

### **6.1.2 Metro Transit Service**

Correspondence from Ms. Pearce was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Mr. Airde that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities forward the correspondence from Ms. Pearce regarding Metro Transit service to Metro Transit. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6.2 Petitions – None**

## **6.3 Presentations**

### **6.3.1 Blind Sports Nova Scotia**

Ms. Darlene Wournell, Blind Sports Nova Scotia, President, and Mr. Yvon Clement gave the Committee a presentation regarding Blind Sports Nova Scotia hosting the 2011 Canadian Blind Sports National Goalball Sports National Championships from May 13-15, 2011.

Ms. Wournell advised that approximately 130 to 150 people would be attending the event. She added that the Organization requires transportation from the Citadel Hotel to the Citadel High School for athletes, officials and volunteers. Ms. Wournell stated that she had been in contact with Metro Transit on numerous occasions and were advised that Metro Transit would not be able to accommodate their needs. Blind Sports Nova Scotia requested that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities assist them in their efforts to acquire transit services. Committee members came up with a number of options including Stock Transportation, local bingo buses and the Department of National Defence for transportation services. Councillor Wile suggested that the Organization contact Veteran Affairs for access to the Walter Kalu bus service. The Councillor advised Ms. Wournell that she would supply contact information to the Organization to enable them to access further information.

## **7. REPORTS – NONE**

## **8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Monday, March 21, 2011**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Melody Campbell  
Legislative Assistant

---

INFORMATION ITEMS - NONE