

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES

March 21, 2011

PRESENT:

Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair  
Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Mary Newcombe  
Mr. Brian Aird  
Mr. Jack Jones  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal

REGRETS:

Mr. Gary Russell  
Mr. Troy Nauffts

STAFF:

Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Mr. Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure & Asset  
Management  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 in the Meeting Room 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl, Duke Tower, 5251 Duke Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 21, 2011**

Some minor amendments were noted to the February 21, 2011 minutes.

**MOVED by Mary Newcombe, seconded by Brian Aird, that the minutes of the February 21, 2011 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**The Order of Business was agreed upon as presented.**

The Chair noted that Committee member Gary Russell is in the hospital and offered to send him a card with well wishes from the Committee.

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

**4.1 2010 Work Plan up-date**

This item was not addressed.

**4.2 2011 Work Plan**

Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair and Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice Chair, reviewed with the Committee the “Accessibility Issues in HRM Buildings” document (updated to February 10, 2011).

Mr. Phil Townsend arrived at 4:15 p.m. and passed on regrets from Mike MacDonald who is not able to attend this meeting.

It was noted that the Family Court on Devonshire Avenue is doing a great job with accessibility, although they could use a wheelchair to have on hand for use by people with limited mobility. Mr. Townsend suggested that this is an operational issue, not a property maintenance issue, and recommended that the Committee write to the Family Court suggesting they purchase a wheelchair. The Chair will work with the Legislative Assistant to produce this letter.

**MOVED by Theresa Horwill, seconded by Mary Newcombe, that the Chair write a letter to the Family Court on Devonshire suggesting they purchase a wheelchair for the use of visitors to the building with limited mobility. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Townsend provided a brief update on the Rockingham Community Centre, noting that this matter will be brought forward to Council in the near future.

With regard to the accessible door at the Alderney Landing Ferry Terminal, the Chair indicated that they had discussed with a representative of Royal Door a solution for this problem door. Mr. Townsend advised he would speak with Royal Door.

Mr. Townsend distributed cost estimates and notes on accessibility issues identified by the Chair and Vice Chair, as prepared by Mr. Mike MacDonald.

Ms. Horwill thanked Mr. Townsend for repairs taking place at Tallahassee Centre.

Mr. Townsend indicated that there are uncommitted funds designated for these accessibility projects, and suggested that the most cost effective approach would be for the Committee look at these projects and group them in packages of five or ten projects (ie: 5 doors, etc.). That way staff can work with TPW to get the best prices on these projects. He also noted that some of the issues identified are hazardous and should be dealt with asap and shouldn't be paid for with accessibility funds as they could be a hazard to all visitors.

Ms. Newcombe mentioned that the timing on the elevator doors of Duke Tower are too quick and close on her chair. Mr. Townsend indicated that the building is not owned by HRM but he will address this issue with the property owner.

Mr. Townsend noted that the list is a good inventory of the accessibility of HRM buildings and is good information for staff to have.

Councillor Wile suggested that the Committee meet at the Canada Games Centre for the May 16, 2011 meeting and take a tour of the centre for accessibility issues. The Committee agreed and the Legislative Assistant will make arrangements.

Mr. Townsend left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Ms. Horwill asked members to let them know if they do a site visit at a building, so they don't duplicate work.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 2011 Haliward for Troy Nauffts**

The Committee reviewed details of the award Mr. Nauffts will be receiving on April 2, 2011. The Committee extends congratulations to Mr. Nauffts for this achievement. He was not present at this meeting.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

## **6.1 Correspondence**

### **6.1.1 Email re: seating for the disabled at the Rebecca Cohn**

An email dated March 8, 2011 from Ms. Rachelle Holt was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed Ms. Holt's email regarding seating for the disabled at the Rebecca Cohn auditorium (Dalhousie Arts Centre). The Committee agreed that although they sympathize with her situation, it is not within the mandate of the Committee and the issue should be raised with Dalhousie.

The Chair and the Legislative Assistant will prepare a response to Ms. Holt.

## **6.2 Petitions - None**

## **6.3 Presentation - None**

## **7. REPORTS**

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Information Item – Chronicle Herald article “Disabled transit users in HRM face numerous obstacles”**

Councillor Wile gave a summary of the Metro Transit public forum she attended on disabled transit users.

The Committee discussed accessible transit issues including low floor buses and accessible back door buses.

The Legislative Assistant is to forward the contact information for Metro Transit to Ms. Newcombe for her to forward her comments regarding accessibility issues on transit.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – April 18, 2011**

Councillor Blumenthal provided regrets for the April 18, 2011 meeting.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant