



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
June 20, 2016**

- PRESENT:** Krista Daley, Vice Chair  
Councillor Steve Craig  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Yvon Clement  
Meredith Fillmore  
Sue Uteck
- REGRETS:** Patricia Gates, Chair  
Mikiko Terashima  
Nancy Beaton  
Gerry Post
- STAFF:** Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Government Relations & External Affairs  
Darren Young, Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Heather MacKenzie, Manager, Diversity Services, Halifax Public Libraries  
Cathy Collett, Legislative Assistant  
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php>.*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:42 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Ms. Krista Daley informed the Committee that Ms. Pat Gates is absent for the meeting and she will therefore be chairing the meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2016**

MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason, seconded by Ms. Meredith Fillmore,

**THAT the minutes of May 16, 2016, be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason, seconded by Ms. Meredith Fillmore,

**THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence – NONE**

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentations - None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1. STAFF**

**9.1.1 Ms. Tracey Jones-Grant, Manager, Diversity & Inclusion**

Ms. Jones-Grant informed the Committee that the Diversity & Inclusion will be officially launching on June 22, 2016 in Halifax Hall, reaffirming the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion through the office. She noted that she and her office have spent most of the last year working towards a corporate Diversity and Inclusion Framework that will frame the way HRM views diversity and inclusion as a municipality.

Work to date has involved researching the current status of diversity and inclusion with various business units to provide a bench mark for future improvements.

Ms. Jones-Grant will be providing an annual report to the CAO that will include what has been done and areas for improvement.

The Diversity & Inclusion Office now has its own email where the public can send grievances.

### **9.1.2 Mr. Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works**

Mr. Zvaniga informed the Committee that he is interested in having an ongoing dialogue with the Committee and has a specific issue that he would like to talk about today.

Mr. Zvaniga informed the Committee that the Canadian Standards Association is revising their standards in 2017. His office is going to submit feedback and comments regarding tactile walking surface indicators for pedestrian ramps and intersections. He requested the Committee's feedback before that submission is made.

Mr. Zvaniga explained that he would like to have the option for a blended ramp to be introduced where needed where the rectangular inserts are joined together at the bottom but have a small space in between them at the top.

The Committee noted that continuous ramps can pose some challenges, for example the possibility of individuals with visual impairments walking diagonally through an intersection.

Mr. Zvaniga will provide the full presentation to the Clerk's Office so that the Committee can read through it in more detail if desired.

Mr. Clement arrived at the end of the presentation and will be discussing his concerns on this issue with Mr. Zvaniga following the meeting.

### **9.1.3 Mr. Evan Teasdale, Infrastructure Planning**

A printed copy of Mr. Teasdale's PowerPoint deck "Mitigation of Construction Impacts" was before the Committee.

Mr. Teasdale informed the Committee that Infrastructure Planning was asked by Council in February to prepare guidelines around Mitigation of Construction Impacts based on best practices. They conducted research, did stakeholder engagement, held a public open house and also engaged accessibility advocacy groups.

The guidelines that were drafted from this process will be used to create Construction Management Plans. There are 3 fundamental principles that guidelines will be based on: Containment, Accessibility and Notification/Awareness. Specific guidelines and requirements are included under each of these fundamental principles.

Mr. Teasdale noted that the site-specific Construction Management Plans will guide permit conditions. They will be enforced by Streets By-law, Encroachment By-law or Building By-law. They are already being implemented where possible.

Key benefits to having these guidelines in place include that Construction Management Plans will now have to be focused on accessibility, allow encroachments only when necessary and require the developer or contractor to consider the needs of the community surrounding the construction location.

The next step in this process is to have HRM adopt the guidelines. They are on the Council agenda for tomorrow. The effectiveness of these guidelines will have to be monitored and updated as necessary.

Ms. Uteck noted issues around enforcement on evenings and weekends, she requested that Halifax Regional Police be informed of the new guidelines. Mr. Teasdale informed the Committee that the

guidelines will be enforced through by-law enforcement and Halifax Regional Police. They will need to be met in order for permits to be issued.

The Committee discussed the need for better by-law enforcement in general.

In response to Committee questions, Mr. Teasdale noted that the accommodation of transit stops will be included in Construction Management Plans.

## **9.2. Committee Member Updates**

### **9.2.1 Active Transportation Committee – Councillor Mason**

Councillor Mason informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Committee discussed challenges around the Bicycle Lane on Hollis Street and the idea of allowing cyclists to enter Point Pleasant Park on the weekends.

Ms. Uteck left the meeting at 5:22pm.

### **9.2.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Gerry Post**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **9.2.3 Work Plan – Pat Gates**

A Goal-Setting Spreadsheet was before the Committee.

The Chair asked the Committee to review the notes from the workshop and input data into the grid provided before the next meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that planning for the Town Hall meeting will begin at the July meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Yvon Clement, Seconded by Ms. Meredith Fillmore,

**THAT The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing recommends that Regional Council request a Staff Report regarding the inclusion of Roll Call on all Halifax Regional Municipality Advisory and Standing Committee Agendas.**

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **10. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 18, 2016** at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Councillor Mason, Ms. Meredith Fillmore, and Mr. Darren Young informed the Committee that they would not be in attendance at the July meeting.

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support