

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 14, 2007**

PRESENT: Mr. Denis St. Laurent, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Jamie Bolduc  
Ms. Susan Carroll  
Ms. Lisa Dahr  
Mr. Derek Mathers  
Mr. Robert Richards  
Ms. Cathy Towers

ABSENT WITH  
REGRETS: Councillor Stephen D. Adams, Chair  
Mr. Tim Hosford  
Mr. Kevin Bulley

STAFF: Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine  
Services  
Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Solicitor  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Denis St. Laurent, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Captain William Spry Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

**Addition:**     9.1     Accountability and Annual Reporting - *Mr. Denis St. Laurent*  
                  9.2     Membership Update - *Legislative Assistant*  
                  9.3     Update on Transferability Report - *Mr. Robert Richards*

**MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Jamie Bolduc that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 12, 2007**

**MOVED BY Mr. Jamie Bolduc, seconded by Ms. Susan Carroll that the minutes of April 12, 2007, as circulated, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Audit of the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee's Progress in 2006**

The Committee agreed that the April 12, 2007 meeting provided a detailed review of the Committee's work to date and the current status of the issues, therefore; this item is to be removed from the agenda.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Safety of Taxi Drivers**

The Committee agreed to deal with Item 7.1 Safety Camera Standards/Technology Sub-Committee at this time.

Mr. Derek Mathers advised that, although the Sub-Committee has been unable to meet, he has been compiling information on cameras. He submitted a document entitled

*"Taxicab Safety Camera Program - Technical Specifications and System Requirements"* dated May 2006 from the City of Toronto.

Mr. Mathers explained that although a motion had been passed recommending cameras be made mandatory, it is perhaps not the avenue to pursue at this time due to the results of the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association survey which indicated that the drivers were not interested in having shields or cameras mandated even if there were some financial consideration provided to assist with the purchase and installation costs. He advised that, upon reflection, he is not in favour of mandating cameras. Three of the four major brokers now have an automated computer GPS dispatch system with panic buttons. Mr. Mathers suggested that assistance be provided in the form of a training/education session for Brokers/Managers/Dispatchers, in consultation with Halifax Regional Police, on how they should respond to a GPS panic button alert. He requested procedures for the drivers and office workers to follow in emergency situations.

Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, HRM Taxi and Limousine Services, advised that the provincial Occupational Health & Safety Department (Mr. Vince Garnier, Manager), has finalized the draft pamphlet in regard to the Information / Training package for drivers. The documents should be available by the end of July or early August for review by the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee. The information will be incorporated into the training standard and will be part of the new driver testing, and may also be made available at community sessions for experienced drivers. Mr. Hindle agreed with Mr. Mathers' suggestion of implementing an emergency response plan in consultation with the Halifax Regional Police. He suggested that the HRP representative be invited to be in attendance at the meeting for the review of the document.

Mr. Mathers requested that the information from Toronto on cameras be circulated to the Committee.

## **5.2 Inequities in Taxi Owners Licenses**

- A copy of the Owners Licence Chart, dated February 2007, was before the Committee.

Mr. St. Laurent thanked Mr. Hindle for the detailed breakdown of multiple owners in the various zones. Item to be removed from the agenda.

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

### **6.1 Correspondence**

Mr. St. Laurent noted a correspondence (response from Mayor Kelly to Mr. Downey, President, Halifax Taxi Drivers Association) was listed on the agenda as an Information Item. No further action requested.

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Delegations - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Safety Camera Standards/Technology Sub-Committee - (Verbal)**

This item was dealt with as part of Item 5.1 Taxi Driver Safety. See Page 3.

**8. NOTICES OF MOTION - None**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 Accountability and Annual Reporting**

- A copy of the City of Winnipeg's Taxicab Board's Annual Report was submitted for the record at this time.

Mr. Denis St. Laurent vacated the Chair at 10:36 a.m. Ms. Susan Carroll assumed the Chair at this time.

Mr. St. Laurent requested that the Chairperson of the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee present an annual report to Regional Council. The annual report could include information such as: the number of taxi licenses issued / revoked, how many industry members were assaulted / killed. He explained that an annual report would elevate the taxi industry to a higher standard of management. Mr. St. Laurent suggested that staff be requested to provide samples of an annual report for the next meeting. He submitted a copy of the City of Winnipeg's Taxicab Board's annual report as a sample.

Mr. Hindle and the Legislative Assistant advised that HRM Boards and Committees usually do provide an annual report to Regional Council. The reports are often a verbal update by the Chair of the Board/Committee and/or an Information Report circulated to Members of Council. The annual report would highlight the major issues/achievements considered by the Committee over the previous twelve months. The annual report would be similar to an Executive Summary of the Committee's minutes and would be in the

format of an HRM Information Report. Items could not be included in the annual report that were not discussed at a Committee meeting.

Mr. St. Laurent requested that the report be presented verbally to Regional Council. He clarified that he would prefer a report on the state of the taxi industry. He referred to the Winnipeg Taxicab Board's report which includes statistics and the taxicab business activity.

Mr. Roberts commented that the Winnipeg Taxicab Board is a provincial Tribunal and is mandated to provide an annual report. He requested that the annual report from this Committee be reviewed by the Committee prior to it going forward to Regional Council and that it include information such as how many suspensions occurred for inappropriate cars etc.

Mr. Mathers and Ms. Towers commented that an annual report would be beneficial and would assist in tying in what the Committee's role is and what is being accomplished in regard to industry related issues. The annual report could also result in the Committee being more respected by the industry itself as it could be shown what the Committee has done in response to the issues and what it has done for the drivers.

Mr. St. Laurent clarified that his intent is for an annual report reflecting the state of the industry that would be prepared by staff. He suggested an amendment to By-Law T-108 to mandate that an annual report on the state of the industry be required. Mr. Hindle responded that an amendment to By-Law T-108 would not be required as Administrative Order 38 outlines the roles/responsibilities of the Committee. If monthly or quarterly statistics are required, that could be done. Activities of crime against drivers, would require assistance from the Halifax Regional Police. He will review the issues and provide an update at the next meeting.

During the ensuing discussion on the matter, the Committee agreed to have monthly statistical information added to the regular agenda. This information would then be incorporated in the annual report. Mr. Hindle agreed to compile a draft report for the next meeting in consultation with Mr. St. Laurent and other annual reports.

Mr. St. Laurent resumed the Chair at this time.

## **9.2 Membership Update**

The Legislative Assistant advised that Mr. Hari Boggs has forwarded his resignation due to work / family commitments.

There are now two vacancies on the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee; one for a Licensed Taxi Owner and one for a Business Association.

The next advertisement for volunteers to serve on an HRM Board or Committee will most likely not occur until the annual call for volunteers in September. The Legislative Assistant reminded those in attendance that interested applicants may apply at anytime to serve on an HRM Board or Committee. The volunteer application form is available online at [http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/volunteer\\_application.html](http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/volunteer_application.html) or by contacting the Municipal Clerk's Office. The Membership Selection Committee will review all applicants and appointments will be made based on the criteria as outlined in the Terms of Reference (Administrative Order 38). Mr. Hindle responded to Mr. St. Laurent that in order to include a representative from the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association as part of the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee's composition, a recommendation to Regional Council to amend Administrative Order 38 would be required.

Discussion ensued on whether or not the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association would be eligible to apply for the vacant position of "Business Association". The Legislative Assistant advised that everyone may apply. The decision will be made by the Membership Selection Committee upon review of each application and the criteria as outlined in Administrative Order 38. Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Municipal Solicitor, added that with the wording of Administrative Order 38 not being specific, arguably, yes, the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association could be considered a Business Association if the taxis are independent with an Association representing them. However; the intent was for a business association, outside the taxi industry, who would be able to provide input as to their interaction with the taxi industry and if there were an option, the preference would be for a business association outside the taxi or limousine industry.

### **9.3 Update on Transferability Report**

Mr. Hindle responded to Mr. Roberts that the report has been drafted and signed by his Manager, Ms. Andrea MacDonald. The report was then requested to be forwarded to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for review. Mr. Hindle explained that the report would be released to Chief Beazley for his signature once the CAO's office has completed their review. The report would become a public document once it has been circulated to members of Regional Council.

During the ensuing discussion on why there has been a four month delay in the report reaching Council, it was **MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Jamie Bolduc that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee request that the Chief Administrative Officer provide a status update on the "Taxi Owner Licence Issues"**

**Information Report drafted by Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, HRM Taxi and Limousine Services. Further, that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee be advised of the date the report will be before Regional Council and available to the public. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. MOTIONS - None**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, July 12, 2007**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:02 am. The Committee moved In Camera at this time.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant