

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 14, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair
Mr. Earl Brown
Mr. Robert Richards
Ms. Lisa Dahr
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Mr. Richard McNeil
Ms. Cathy Towers
Mr. Jamie Bolduc

REGRETS: Mr. Tim Hosford
Mr. Derek Mathers
Mr. Gary Russell

STAFF: Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine Services
Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Solicitor
Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk
Mark Calvi, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 09, 2009

It was noted that in item 4.3, Mr. Richard McNeil's name should replace Mr. Robert Richards' name, in both instances, and the reference to Superintendent McNeil should be corrected to read Mr. Kevin Hindle.

Time of Adjournment must be corrected from 10:03 a.m. to 11:03 a.m. .

MOVED BY Richard McNeil, seconded by Cathy Towers, that the minutes of April 09, 2009 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

ADDITIONS:

- 8.1 Change in Composition re Limousine Driver / Owner Position (Kevin Hindle)
- 8.2 Review of Mandate (Jamie Bolduc)

MOVED BY Jamie Bolduc, seconded by Lisa Dahr, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Presentation

6.1.1 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities noted the guide presented was circulated to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, who in turn passed a motion on April 20, 2009, that said guide be presented to the Taxi and

Limousine Advisory Committee for their consideration. Passengers who have disabilities may have special needs and cannot be refused pick up by drivers. A mechanism to distribute this information to HRM Taxi and Limousine drivers is required.

Ms. Towers, prompted by the creation of new licensing agreements for airport operators, asked for clarification regarding the issue of drivers whose faith prohibits contact with dogs. Ms. McFadyen responded that Religious Groups have recently made statements that it is acceptable for drivers to pick up passengers with guide dogs.

Councillor Adams suggested the guide be provided to brokers and licensing offices.

Mr. Hindle referred to Transport Canada's model for Assisting Persons with Disabilities which is given to new applicants, and those being retested. Transport Canada's package includes a DVD and workbook, and Mr. Hindle suggested a similar information be provided on guide dogs.

Ms. McFadyen noted that any restrictions for drivers, such as medical reasons, require a registered exemption.

Mr. Hindle proposed to change the reference of guide dog to registered service animal. Ms. McFadyen in response noted that guide dogs require registration and that not all service animals require this. (ie: animals that offer emotional support). Mr. Hindle suggested some reference needs to be made in the documentation that the animal needs to be a registered animal and registered with the Taxi office.

7. REPORTS

7.1 By-Law T-108 Zone Regulations - Zone Section #46

In response to concerns Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, solicitor, advised that what would be forbidden would be for the driver to pick up a passenger in Halifax and drop them off in Halifax, which would be outside their zone. He further noted that one of the problematic scenarios in question is when there are multiple passengers with multiple destinations.

Councillor Adams noted that #46 may be exempt if there are multiple passengers with multiple destinations. Mr. Hindle suggests that looking at where the call originates and where the completion point is located is the determining factor and that this may be the best way to approach this situation.

In response to Mr. Earl Brown as to whether Councillor Smith will be requesting a staff report for this item, Councillor Adams noted the request from Councillor Smith refers to deadheading

mileage and specifically its environmental effects. He suggested the Committee bring forward their specific zoning concerns to Council as well.

7.2 By-Law T-138 An Amendment to By-Law T-108

It was agreed that this item be combined with item 7.1 and be deferred to the next meeting.

7.3 Removal of 3-Car Stand on Green Road

MOVED BY Richard McNeil, seconded by Lisa Dahr, that the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee have no objections to the removal of said 3-Car Stand. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Change in Composition re Limousine Driver / Owner Position (Kevin Hindle)

In previous meetings changes to the composition of the Taxi and Limousine Committee were discussed, specifically, adding a Halifax driver as a representative.

In addition to this amendment, Mr. Hindle raised a concern that was brought forward from the Limousine Industry requesting their representative be designated as just an owner position rather than owner and / or driver. Due to the nature of the industry, drivers change regularly and an owner position would better represent the Limousine Industry in terms of operation and business management.

Ms. Coffey asked for clarification of the change and exactly how many representatives were being requested. Mr. Hindle reiterated the above point stating that only one position is being requested, with the designation being redefined as an owner.

Mr. Richards proposed two representatives - driver and owner / broker and requested this item be deferred until such representatives come forward.

MOVED BY Robert Richards, seconded by Jamie Bolduc that the Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee recommends to Council to appoint a licensed Halifax taxi owner/operator to the Committee for representation of taxi industry concerns in Halifax, and to defer the change in designation for the limousine representative until someone that meets the proposed change comes forward. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

8.2 Review of Mandate to Bring Forward any Improvements (Jamie Bolduc)

Mr. Bolduc asked for all members to review the Committee mandate prior to the next meeting and bring forward any revisions. Councillor Adams asked to have copies of the mandate sent out by mail.

Ms. Dahr suggested members review the 5 key items to try and advance taxi and limousine business and service. The focus should be what is currently being done to meet or exceed mandate challenges and what else could be done to assist drivers, operators and passengers to have a better experience with this industry.

8.3 Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource 14th Annual Recognition of Excellence Dinner

Ms. Dahr made mention that on May 13, 2009, the Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resource Council held their 14th Annual Recognition of Excellence Dinner, and payed tribute to the 61 taxi and limousine drivers that achieved their credential in the past year.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting will be held on June 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

Robert Richards requested to add the issue of the city hiring county cabs to the next agenda.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Mark Calvi
Legislative Assistant