

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2003**

**PRESENT:**

Ms. Betty MacDonald, Chair  
Ms. Joanne Coffey, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Meade  
Ms. Peggy Brown  
Ms. Jane Cale  
Ms. Sally Campbell  
Mr. Patrick Harrington  
Ms. Barbara LeGay  
Ms. Maureen Reynolds  
Ms. Cynthia Street  
Mr. Bob Venus

**ABSENT:**

Ms. Anne Langille (regrets)  
Ms. Elsie Cholette  
Councillor Sarto (regrets)

**STAFF:**

Ms. Charla Williams, Co-ordinator, Diversity Program  
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Metro Transit  
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Two Interpreters (Sandra and Tammy)  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/NOMINATION OF CHAIR**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the HR Training Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Duke Tower.

Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant suggested deferring the Nomination of Chair until the new members have been appointed (previously agreed upon by the Chair through e-mail correspondence) and are in attendance at the December meeting. The Committee members advised they do not meet in December and would prefer to proceed with the nominations. Ms. Charla Williams suggested Councillor Meade conduct the nominations. Councillor Meade asked for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Betty MacDonald offered to continue in the role of Chair for this Committee.

**MOVED BY Ms. Peggy Brown, seconded by Ms. Sally Campbell that Ms. Betty MacDonald be elected as Chair for the 2004 term. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Barbara LeGay was nominated for Vice-Chair but declined the nomination.

**MOVED BY Ms. Barbara LeGay, seconded by Mr. Patrick Harrington that Ms. Joanne Coffey be elected Vice-Chair for the 2004 term. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Ms. Coffey accepted the nomination.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 20, 2003**

Correction: Ms. Jane Cale advised the minutes indicate she was Vice-Chair and requested this be corrected to show Joanne Coffey as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Maureen Reynolds commented she did not remember offering to send a report to Ms. Sandra Shute regarding last month's agenda item 4.1.11 Housing Report as recorded on page 5 of the October 20, 2003 minutes. Ms. Coffey stated she remembered Ms. Reynolds agreeing to forward the report to Ms. Shute for braille copying. Ms. Betty MacDonald offered to send the Legislative Assistant's e-mail address to Ms. Reynolds so that Ms. Reynolds could forward the report to the Legislative Assistant.

Ms. LeGay advised she found the format of the minutes confusing as the action items are scattered throughout the minutes. She asked if a list of just the action items could be

prepared so that everyone knows what they are to do. She added she often reads the draft minutes, which are received only a few days prior to a meeting, and realizes she has said she would do something but then there is no time to do it before the meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Mr. Patrick Harrington that the minutes of October 20, 2003 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

ADDITIONS:

- 8.1 Proposed Meeting Schedule 2004 - *Legislative Assistant*
- 8.2 2004 CNIB/Metro Transit Bus Pass - *Ms. Peggy Brown*
- 8.3 Grocery Assistance - *Ms. Peggy Brown*
- 8.4 National Housing Strategy Day - *Ms. Peggy Brown*
- 8.5 Sidewalk Cafes - *Councillor Meade*

**MOVED by Ms. Peggy Brown, seconded by Mr. Bob Venus that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

4.1 Status Sheet Items

Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant, advised the Committee the Status Sheet format must follow the Regional Council format . She explained this was to ensure all information produced by HRM would be in a similar, recognizable format. She explained the Regional Council format is in chart form and contains the history of the items such as when the issue was first brought forward at a meeting, action taken/requested and the current status.

She further explained the status sheet is updated weekly/monthly by the Legislative Assistant. Ms. Newson referred to the blank copy of the chart format included in their agenda packages. She explained that previous copies of the Status Sheet were also included for the Committee's review to enable them to advise her on which items were to remain or be removed in order to provide an up-to-date Status Sheet for the next meeting. Ms. Newson explained that an issue remains on the Status Sheet until it is resolved and/or the Committee requests the item be removed. She advised that each item does not require lengthy discussion each meeting and the Committee could simply advise there was nothing further to report on that particular item and move on to the next item.

The Committee expressed strong reservations with the chart format as it was not conducive to braille copying and advised the Legislative Assistant that Ms. Leboutillier, the previous Legislative Assistant, had prepared a Status Sheet format, with the assistance of this Committee, specifically for this Committee. The Committee further advised Ms. Newson, that prior discussions had been held as to how the Status Sheet would be developed and where it would be placed on the agenda.

Ms. Newson explained the Status Sheet would always be listed as item 4.1 on the agenda but the document itself could be a separate document. She explained the issues do not have to be listed individually on the agenda but could be a separate document and when item 4.1 was reached on the agenda any Committee member who wished to bring an item forward for discussion or update could do so.

Ms. Charla Williams, Coordinator, Diversity Program, expressed the importance of all information being available so that all persons in HRM would have access, including those persons who would require a braille format. She added the current Regional Council format is not conducive to braille copying and would not be good for use with this Committee or members of the public who required access to a braille format. Ms. Williams advised she would speak to Administration (the Municipal Clerk's Office) regarding all information being available in a format conducive to all needs.

Ms. Newson advised that a chart format could be sent to all members except those requiring braille copies for whom she would prepare a separate sheet without the lines. The Committee explained the previous Legislative Assistant, Ms. Leboutillier, had devised a format specific for the needs of this Committee and strongly recommended the continued use of that format.

Ms. Cynthia Street commented this Committee re-invents the wheel in regards to process all the time. She added that a chart form for the status sheet had been prepared and the Committee informed that the lines could be removed for braille and asked if this was not sufficient. She added that she finds the chart format very helpful. Ms. Jane Cale added that she was a member of the Status Sheet Sub-Committee that previously worked with Ms. Leboutillier on this issue and suggested that another Sub-Committee be formed to address this issue.

Ms. Williams expressed concern with the Committee members not having the same information (format) before them and added that it would be best for the Status Sheet to be in the same format for all members. She added there has to be a format for the status sheet that all people can access and she will bring this issue forward with Administration. Ms. MacDonald suggested that Peggy Brown, Patrick Harrington and Barb LeGay assist Ms. Williams with this issue.

Mr. Kevin Hindle commented that all this discussion is great but is a separate issue and is taking time away from the actual agenda items.

Ms. Newson requested a meeting with members of the Committee or a Sub-Committee who could assist her with updating the Status Sheet. Ms. Joanne Coffey, Ms. Barbara LeGay and Ms. Betty MacDonald offered to assist. Ms. Newson will contact these members in time for discussion before the January agenda package is sent.

#### 4.1.1 Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

Mr. Patrick Harrington suggested Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair of the Taxi and Limousine Committee, be invited to attend the next meeting in order for this Committee to explain the issue of lack of accessible taxis.

Councillor Meade advised there would be a scheduling conflict as the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee meet the same day as this Committee. Ms. Charla Williams suggested representatives of this Committee arrange a meeting with Councillor Adams to present the situation in relation to accessible taxis.

Ms. Coffey suggested Mr. Laughie Rutt be invited to this meeting as well. Ms. LeGay and Ms. Brown commented there are other issues/concerns they would like to have addressed at this meeting, such as Guide Dogs/ Smoking and suggested the meeting be open to all who wish to attend. Ms. Williams cautioned the Committee to not let the proposed meeting become a “bashing” session. She further suggested a possible joint Sub-Committee with the Taxi and Limousine Committee to address other issues such as smoking.

Constable Falkenham suggested the Committee present a brief to the Chair of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee outlining what issues will be discussed so that he may prepare for the meeting as well.

Ms. Coffey emphasized the issue is accessible taxis and cautioned the Committee to stay focused on accessibility for everyone and not get scattered. The Committee agreed the main issue would be accessible taxis and other issues such as guide dogs could be added to the outline and discussed at the meeting if time permits.

Ms. Campbell commented she likes the idea of a joint Sub-Committee with the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee as she attended the joint meeting last year and did not feel the Taxi Committee really understood the issues. She suggested the representatives meeting with the Chair of Taxi should plan their strategy and also place emphasis on the fact that the Taxi Industry is providing a service and they should have service for all. Ms. Reynolds commented if there was a way to show the Taxi Industry there could be an economic benefit to them to

provide service to all, then perhaps they would be more willing to consider the issue. She further suggested research be done to see what other Cities have done in regards to accessible taxis.

Ms. Betty MacDonald offered to write a letter to Councillor Adams, Chair of the Taxi and Limousine Committee, requesting a meeting for November or December. Further, that Ms. Joanne Coffey as Vice-Chair would attend and perhaps Mr. Harrington.

4.1.2 Housing for the Environmentally Sensitive Report - *update, Ms. Reynolds*

Ms. Reynolds stated this item has been dealt with and could be deleted.

Ms. MacDonald asked if Ms. Reynolds had forwarded the report to the Clerk's Office for braille copying. Ms. Reynolds replied she had not but will do so. Ms. Williams added this report was to be sent to Ms. Barb Nehiley as Ms. Nehiley is dealing with this issue then Ms. Nehiley was to contact Betty MacDonald. Ms. LeGay inquired if the letter had been sent to Ms. Nehiley as on two previous occasions Ms. MacDonald indicated she would contact Ms. Nehiley. Ms. LeGay added that once this is completed the item should be removed from the status sheet.

4.1.3 Presentation to Regional Council - *Chair*

Ms. Jane Cale advised the report shows her as Vice-Chair. This should be changed to Ms. Joanne Coffey, Vice-Chair.

Ms. MacDonald advised she has signed the report and it will be presented to Regional Council on Tuesday, November 25, 2003. She encouraged all Committee members to attend the meeting.

Ms. Charla Williams asked if Interpreters were needed. Ms. MacDonald responded that she has booked four Interpreters, two will be at the cable company (Eastlink) and two will be in Regional Council chambers with her.

Ms. Williams asked if the cable company (Eastlink) and Council Chambers were aware of this and were they informed as to how the cameras should be set up so that the public watching from home will see the signing.

Ms. Reynolds expressed concern with the five minute time limit as there is a period of delay when signing and additional time may be required. Councillor Meade responded that Council would certainly take this into consideration.

Ms. MacDonald advised she would be standing at the podium and inquired as to where the Interpreters would be as she requires them to be directly opposite her. Ms. Newson advised she will inform the Clerk's Office as to requirements for the Interpreters location and that of the cameras.

4.1.4 Research on Use of Ultraviolet Light to Disinfect Public Pools - *update, Ms. Reynolds*

A letter from Mr. Denis Huck, Manager Real Property Operations, dated, November 13, 2003 was circulated to the Committee (braille copies will be sent in January's agenda package).

Ms. MacDonald read the correspondence received today in the Clerk's Office. Ms. Williams advised this matter could be **removed from the Status Sheet**.

4.1.5 Apartment Buildings - New Construction - Wheelchair Accessible - *Chair*

Ms. MacDonald advised this report has been signed and will be going to Regional Council on November 25, 2003. Councillor Meade will be presenting the report on the Committee's behalf.

4.1.6 Membership - *Chair*

Ms. Newson advised the Membership Selection Committee has met and recommendations for Committee appointments will be going forward to Regional Council on Tuesday, November 18, 2003. She added that an up-to-date membership list will be provided in the January agenda package.

Ms. Jane Cale, Mr. Bob Venus, Ms. Cynthia Street, Ms. Barb LeGay and Ms. Maureen Reynolds announced they have not re-offered for this Committee therefore, this will be their last meeting. Ms. LeGay indicated she has decided to re-apply but has missed the deadline for applications. Ms. Newson has informed Ms. Syms of Ms. LeGay's intention to re-apply and will forward Ms. LeGay's application for consideration as a replacement on the Committee if a vacancy develops.

The Committee thanked those members who were not re-applying for their dedicated service.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

6. **CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS** - None

7. **REPORTS** - None

8. **ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Proposed 2004 Meeting Schedule

**MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Peggy Brown that the 2004 schedule to meet the third Monday of each month with an August meeting if required, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8.2 2004 CNIB/Metro Transit Bus Pass

Mr. Kevin Hindle advised the Committee's request has been received by Mr. Brian Taylor, General Manager, Metro Transit and staff who will be making a decision.

Ms. MacDonald thanked Metro Transit for placing rear route numbers on the buses. Ms. Williams suggested this Committee send a letter to Metro Transit thanking them for their attention to this issue. **MOVED BY Ms. Coffey, seconded by Ms. Campbell that a thank you letter be sent to Mr. Brian Taylor, General Manager of Metro Transit, expressing appreciation and recognition for the placement of rear route numbers on the buses. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Mr. Hindle added it is nice to know this has been recognized by the Community.

Ms. MacDonald volunteered to send a thank you letter to Metro Transit.

8.3 Grocery Assistance

Ms. Brown advised the Sobey's on North and Windsor Street, Halifax, offers assistance with grocery shopping for those persons who request the service. The Committee added that most grocery stores, such as the Superstore on Quinpool Road, also provide this service if requested. Ms. Charla Williams advised most Sobey's stores would offer this assistance as it is part of their new Customer Service initiative.

8.4 National Housing Strategy Day

Ms. Brown advised there will be a march on Saturday, November 22, 2003 from the Grand Parade in Halifax to the Dalhousie Architectural Building. She further advised anyone interested in attending this march can meet at 2330 Gottingen Street and the people at the new affordable housing group at Gerrish and Gottingen will assist those interested by walking with them or providing transportation to the parade.

8.5 Sidewalk Cafes

Councillor Meade suggested a reminder be sent to staff with a request for an update on this issue as the sidewalk cafes will be setting up in a few months time. Mr. Patrick Harrington commented that an agreement was made that changes would be made by 2004. Ms. Charla Williams suggested a letter/request be sent to Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director of Planning, requesting an update on this issue.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Peggy Brown that the Monday, December 15, 2003 meeting be cancelled. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 19, 2004** at 4:00 pm in the HR Training Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Duke Tower.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant