

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

June 21, 2004

PRESENT:

Ms. Betty MacDonald, Chair
Ms. Joanne Coffey, Vice-Chair
Councillor Meade
Councillor Sarto
Ms. Peggy Brown
Ms. Sally Campbell
Ms. Lynn Demont
Mr. Patrick Harrington
Ms. Joan Loveridge
Mr. Warren Reed
Ms. Ruth Szabo

ABSENT:

Ms. Barbara LeGay (regrets)
Mr. Kim Kenney
Ms. Cathy Robertson (regrets)
Ms. Janet Spares (regrets)

STAFF:

Ms. Charla Williams, Co-ordinator, Diversity Program
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police
Ms. Roxanne MacInnis, TDM Coordinator
Jana Delaney, Interpreter
Karina Bures, Interpreter
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 19, 2004 and May 17, 2004

MOVED BY Councillor Sarto, seconded by Ms. Peggy Brown that the minutes of April 19, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Joanne Coffey requested the names of the Interpreters be included in the minutes.

MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Joanne Coffey that the minutes of May 17, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Move: Item 7.1 to immediately following the approval of the agenda.

Added Items: 8.1.1 Workplan - Mr. Warren Reed

MOVED by Mr. Patrick Harrington, seconded by Ms. Ruth Szabo that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. REPORTS

7.1.1 Regional Planning - David McCusker

- A Copy of the Guidebook to HRM's Alternatives for Growth booklet was before the Committee.

Mr. David McCusker, Regional Planning, presented the report.

The Committee raised the following points during the ensuing discussion:

- no mention in the Regional Planning book of accessible pedestrian transportation/walkway nor for Universal Design.
- Housing choices were mentioned but not accessible housing or affordable housing.
- Issues concerning accessibility and disabled access are often thought of as the last thing but if we are going to elevate the awareness of disabled issues then we have to

- get you (the Regional Planning Committee) to think about these things and include them in your documents. These issues should be part of the foundation strategy as well.
- Last bullet point should be “we want to be mindful of access to all citizens”, that way you do not single out disabled people. If the idea or intent is there then the language should be there as well as it is not clear from reading the document.
 - 100,000 people are expected to enter the Capital District in future and persons with disabilities will be among this group. Good transportation, accessibility and affordable accessible housing will be needed. Without a good transportation system you do not have a life.
 - Will you meet with specific groups to hear their concerns such as the disabled community, the black community, the expected immigrant population, religious and educational groups? How will you be more inclusive so there is not a group in the future who asks why their concerns were not considered?

Mr. McCusker responded the Regional Planning Committee has an extensive data base that is quite diverse and many community groups, organizations have been contacted.

- Great that transit is being stressed, good to hear emphasis on trip management to alleviate traffic to downtown core.

Mr. McCusker responded to questions from the Committee regarding High Occupancy Lanes and advised it would not be possible in HRM to restrict a lane or two-lanes of traffic to High Occupancy lanes only due to the cost and the lack of space. He added HRM will become more active in parking management and also regarding all day parking in the downtown core by possible introduction of limitations to all day parking with allowances for residents of the downtown core.

At this time the Committee agreed to move forward Item 8.2.1 for discussion.

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Presenting to the Regional Planning Committee

- Guidelines for Presenting to the Regional Planning Committee were before the Committee (e-mail dated June 9, 2004 from Susan Corser).

The Committee raised the following comments during the ensuing discussion:

- This Committee does not have representation of all disabilities nor living conditions therefore it could not speak on behalf of the entire disabled community.
- The Regional Planning book, available to everyone in HRM, has a questionnaire included. The questionnaire is to be returned, including any additional comments, to the Regional Planning Committee and all information received will be considered.
- A public meeting would supply more information for the Regional Planning Committee than a presentation from this Committee. There are issues that we may not think of but members of the public may add.

The Legislative Assistant reminded the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities that they are an **advisory** Committee to Regional Council and that a presentation could be made to the Regional Planning Committee. She added the request for a public meeting specifically for the disabled community could be made directly to the Regional Planning Committee as part of the presentation.

Mr. David McCusker responded the Regional Planning Committee would entertain a presentation but the request for an additional open house for specific information on a specific issue would be a bit of a challenge. He advised the Regional Planning Committee has an extensive data base and the pamphlets have been distributed geographically as well. Mr. McCusker added the public meetings have to be open for all.

- There should be a public meeting specifically for the disabled community that would give the disabled population adequate time to arrange for transportation and to have braille available at the meetings as well as Interpreters so that the meeting would be fully accessible.
- There is an aging population in HRM and accessible issues should be considered as part of the Regional Planning.

Mr. McCusker responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there were members on the Regional Planning Committee representing the disabled community by indicating input was from specific stakeholder groups and a large variety of people were/are involved in the process. He further advised the Regional Planning Committee would participate with any group who invited them to present.

- No matter which alternative is chosen "A, B or C", as outlined in the Regional Planning Alternatives for Growth pamphlet, all communities have to be open to accessible living for everyone.
- Every resident in HRM deserves the same services.

Mr. McCusker advised if this Committee chooses to request a special open house/public meeting be held for the disabled community, that they approach the Regional Planning

Committee with the request by advising them the open houses held to date have not been designed to make these views fully known. He further advised he would relay the comments raised this evening to the Regional Planning Committee.

- If a presentation was made to the Regional Planning Committee, it would be important to make broad comments and not speak on specific issues.
- A motion was passed last month that we request an additional public meeting specifically for the disabled community and we should adhere to that and repeat the request.

Mr. McCusker responded that Regional Planning staff are available to meet with individuals/groups by appointment.

The Committee agreed to forward their original request for an additional public meeting to the Regional Planning Committee and a response be requested before the July meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

Ms. Joanne Coffey explained the up to date status sheet was included in the package and a decision had to be made on what items to remove and what items were to remain. Ms. Williams advised she will review the status sheet and remove any finished business and then forward the list on to the Legislative Assistant.

4.1.1 Follow-up from December 22, 2003 meeting with the Regional Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee

- An Information Report on *Accessible Taxis in HRM* dated June 4, 2004 was before the Committee.
- An Information Report on *Transportation for Disabled Persons - Ottawa* dated June 14, 2004 was before the Committee.

The Committee agreed that nothing further could be done with this issue at this time. No further action requested. A request was made for braille copies of the Para-transportation portion of the report regarding Ottawa.

4.1.2 Regional Planning

This item was addressed under Items 7.1 and 8.2.1 earlier in the meeting. ***Please see page 3.***

4.1.3 Meeting Room Location

Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

4.1.4 All New Sidewalk Handicap Ramps Painted Blue

Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Delegations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1.1 Regional Planning - David McCusker

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 3.

7.1.2 Building Code Sub-Committee - brief verbal update

Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Added Items

8.1.1 Workplan - Mr. Warren Reed

Deferred to July meeting due to time constraints.

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Presenting to the Regional Planning Committee

This item was dealt with earlier in meeting. See page 4.

8.2.2 HRM Noise By-Law - RE: Recent Notice Filed with Human Rights for
Discrimination Based on Disability

Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

8.2.3 Resignation from Committee

Deferred to the July meeting due to time constraints.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant