

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MINUTES

May 16, 2005

PRESENT:

Patrick Harrington, Chair
Councillor Gary Meade
Meredith Hutchings
Joeanne Coffey
Terry Myer
Gus "Warren" Reed
Betty MacDonald
Lynn DeMont
Nancy Mann

REGRETS

Councillor Patrick Murphy
Cathy (*Robertson*) Cranidge
Mary Newcombe
Jen Powley
Jeff Wall
Mary Wallworth

STAFF & OTHERS:

Mr. Kevin Conley, Project Manager, Capital Projects -
Parks
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call to Order	3
2.	Approval of Minutes - April 18, 2005	3
3.	Approval of the Order of Business and Additions and Deletions	3
4.	Business Arising Out of the Minutes	3
4.1	Status Sheet Items	3
4.1.1	Full Service Gas Pumps	3
4.1.2	Amendment to By - Law T-108	3
4.1.3	Metro Center Announcements	4
4.1.4	Impact Training Session	4
5.	Consideration of Deferred Business	4
6.	Correspondence, Petitions and Delegations	4
6.1	Resignations	4
6.2	Presentations	5
6.2.1	Committee for Inclusive Transportation Delegations	5
6.2.2	Accessible Playgrounds Delegations	5
7.	Reports	6
8.	Added Items/New Business	6
8.1	New Business	6
8.1.1	Accessibility Planning and Best Practices	6
8.1.2	Review of Ferry Terminals for Universal Accessibility	7
9.	Next Meeting Date	7
10.	Adjournment	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 18, 2005

MOVED BY Ms. Joanne Coffey, seconded by Mr. Warren Reed that the minutes of April 18, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Move:

Item 6.2.2 to be the first order of business.

Delete:

Item 6.2.1

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Lynn DeMont that the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Full Service Gas Pumps

The Chair advised the Committee that he spoke to Mr. Bill Simpkins, Canadian Petroleum Institute and he advised that the Committee can express their concerns to the Nova Scotia Retail Gasoline Dealers Association.

MOVED By Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Joanne Coffey that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommend that Regional Council send a letter to the Nova Scotia Retail Gasoline Dealers Association expressing the Committees concerns regarding the trend toward self service stations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.1.2 Amendment to BY-LAW T-108

The Chair advised the Committee that By-Law T-108 will not be up for review until the ongoing review of the Taxi Committee has been completed and approved by Council.

4.1.3 Metro Center Announcements

Item to be removed from Status Sheet.

4.1.4 Impact Training Session May 27, 2005

The Chair informed the Committee that an invitation to the Councillors and Senior Management was sent on Friday, May 13, 2005.

Councillor Meade advised the Chair that a Councillor must be present in order to use Halifax Hall. Bookings for Halifax Hall must be made several weeks in advance.

Mr. Warren Reed advised the Committee that Harding Medical will be donating the use of wheelchairs for the training session.

In response to Ms. Joanne Coffey, the Chair advised that in the event of rain, the participants will be taken to the Trade Center and Scotia Square.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Resignations

The Chair advised the Committee that Mr. Daniel MacLellan and Mr. Derek Mathers resigned from the Committee.

Ms. Joanne Coffey had commented that the Terms of Reference was changed to reduce the membership to eight. The Legislative Assistant advised the Committee that the minimum number of members the Committee can have is eight residents and two Councillors and that there is no maximum. The reason that the quorum is eight not six is because the Committee has more than the required number of members. The quorum is based on the total amount of appointed members.

Councillor Meade suggested that the Committee replace the two members.

MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Joanne Coffee that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommend that, the Membership Selection Committee appoint two members to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6.2 Presentations

6.2.1 Committee for Inclusive Transportation

The Chair advised the Committee that the presentation has been cancelled.

6.2.2 Accessible Playgrounds

Mr. Kevin Conley, Project Manager, Capital Projects - Parks, provided an overview of the design of the accessible playground at Westmount School. He noted the following:

- the Accessible Playground Committee is still fund-raising
- the wheelchair challenge course is 189 meters in length
- the surface will be of a rubber type substance
- 80 % of the playground is wheelchair accessible
- an airport theme was chosen because the playground area is the site of the first municipal airport in Canada
- the pathway would replicate a runway and is barrier free
- there will be an airport motif on the surface
- there will be interpretive signage
- visual impairment signage will be in braille
- there will be sound play panels, and chimes

Mr. Warren Reed advised the Committee that the mobility challenge course is not just for wheelchairs but walkers and service dogs. The obstacles will assimilate real life experiences.

In response to various questions from the Committee Mr. Kevin Conley advised of the following:

- HRM contributed \$125,000, NS Sport and Recreation \$67,500, Community Council District Fund \$25,000
- the estimated cost is \$295,000, they are short \$50,000, the typical cost for a playground is \$30,000
- the landscape component will be enhanced

- the school and HRM will maintain the playground
- construction is planned for September 2005
- the playground is designed for children 2- 12 years' old
- Saturn is paying for the swing set and surfacing, which cost approximately \$10,000
- the Committee is seeking sponsorship for plants

The Chair advised that the school has a Naturalization Committee and that the school plans to integrate the playground into their teaching.

In response to Ms. Meredith Hutchings, the Chair advised that the Committee does not participate in fund-raising initiatives, however as an individual she can participate.

In response to Mr. Terry Myer, Mr. Kevin Conley advised that the soccer field was not going to be affected by the playground.

Councillor Meade advised the Committee that the next Accessible Playground Committee meeting is next Thursday at 6:30.

Ms. Meredith Hutchings asked if there is bus service to the school. Councillor Meade commented that a bus cannot access the playground. Mr. Kevin Conley advised that there are accessible parking spots.

Councillor Meade advised the Committee that it is a regional playground. It is not just for the school. He requested that Mr. Kevin Conley send him a letter in regards to the budget shortfall, and explain that it is a regional playground. Councillor Meade advised that he would seek contributions from other Councillors on behalf of the Committee. He also suggested that the Committee hold the October meeting at the school.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kevin Conley for his presentation.

7. REPORTS - None

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

8.1 New Business

8.1.1 Accessibility Planning and Best Practices

Ms. Meredith Hutchings commented that as a result of the Ontario Disability Act, Hamilton has several projects underway. She asked what projects the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities was involved with and if they are Committee initiated. The Chair informed Ms. Meredith Hutchings that projects are brought to the Committee for input and endorsement for

example, a subcommittee provided input on the NS Building Code amendments which resulted in accessible housing.

Mr. Terry Myer suggested that the Committee do some preliminary research on the implementation of a Nova Scotia Disabilities Act. The Chair commented that the Committee began work with the NS Disabled Persons Commission, but that work did not go forward.

Councillor Meade informed the Committee that HRM has received an award for accessible sidewalk cafes. It is unfortunate that the Committee did not get recognized.

He also advised the Committee that the legislation mandating that five percent of all new housing units be accessible will be passed in two weeks. There will be 45 days of public meetings, which will start in August. This is when residents in HRM can express their concerns that five percent is not enough in HRM. The legislation will come in to effect January 1, 2006.

Mr. Terry Myer commented that Nova Scotia has more persons with disabilities than any other province according to Statistics Canada. He also suggested that the Committee contact the Nova Scotia Disabled Commission and find out why there is no Disability Act in Nova Scotia.

Ms. Joanne Coffey asked if the Committee should invite the NS Disabled Commission to a meeting. Ms. Betty Macdonald commented that there should be an act in place and that the Committee should advocate for a NS Disabilities Act.

The Chair advised the Committee that he would contact the NS Disabilities Commission and invite them to the June meeting.

Mr. Terry Myer requested a copy of the Ontario Disability Act.

8.1.2 Review of Ferry Terminals for Universal Accessibility

The Chair advised the Committee that Councillor Fougere had requested that the Committee review the Ferry Terminal for Universal Accessibility, in particular the doors.

The Chair commented that he is not sure what doors the Bikeway Advisory Committee is referring to. He also advised that he spoke with Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant and had asked her to provide more information. The Committee agreed to defer this item.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 20, 2005, Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m..

Stephanie Parsons
Legislative Assistant