

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**MINUTES**

**August 15, 2005**

**PRESENT:**

Patrick Harrington, Chair  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Meredith Hutchings  
Joeanne Coffey  
Terry Myer  
Betty Macdonald  
Jen Powley  
Mary Newcombe

**REGRETS**

Jeff Wall  
Lynn DeMont  
Gus "Warren" Reed, Vice Chair  
Mary Wallworth  
Nancy Mann

**STAFF & OTHERS:**

Ms. Tatjana Zatelo , Diversity Consultant  
Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Ms. Jana Delaney, Interpreter  
Ms. Karina Burris, Interpreter  
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 18, 2005**

It was noted for the record that Meredith Hutchings was absent at the July 18, 2005 meeting.

Amendment Item 8.2 .1 Transit Link/Accessible Low Floor Bus

**MOVED BY Councillor Meade, seconded by Ms. Betty Macdonald that the minutes of July 18, 2005 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Move Item 6.1 to the first order of business.

**MOVED BY Councillor Murphy, seconded by Ms. Joanne Coffey that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**4.1 Status Sheet Items**

**4.1.1 Universal Accessibility Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Loading Doors**

- A copy of the e-mail from staff dated February 5, 2005 was previously circulated to the Committee.

To be removed from status sheet.

**4.1.2 Accessible Playground Update**

The Chair advised the Committee that the TD Bank donated \$10,000 toward the program and that the Airport Authority contributed \$1,000. He further advised that phase one has begun and should be completed by October. In response to Ms. Coffey he commented that a detailed fund-raising proposal was prepared and sent to various companies.

Councillor Meade further advised that Saturn contributed \$12,000 and that thirteen Councillors have contributed to the playground.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Review of Terms of Reference**

The Chair advised the Committee that items 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 were added to the agenda as discussion items. He raised concern regarding the setting of the agenda and advised the Committee that when there are no agenda items that the meeting will be cancelled.

He advised the Committee that Ms. Hutchings brought forward the idea of creating an audit tool to assess the accessibility of businesses. He further asked the Committee if they wanted to proceed and whether or not a change to the Committees's Terms of Reference was required.

Mr. Terry Myer commented that there is provincial legislation that allows the City of Hamilton to conduct accessibility audits of businesses. The Committees focus should be to work on legislation in Nova Scotia.

Councillor Murphy advised the Committee that Regional Planning staff has advised Regional Council that they intend to incorporate the principles of Universal Design into the Regional Plan. As a result, there will be amendments and new by-laws.

In response to the Chair, the Legislative Assistant advised that according to the Terms of Reference the Committee may establish subcommittees to deal with specific issues, subject to the submission of a work plan ( identifying issues, goals, time frame, scope of work and resources required), and Council approval. She further advised that the Committees role is to advise Council on matters related to the status of persons with disabilities and review and/or monitor existing and proposed by-laws of Council. Further, that the Committee can review and/or monitor the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities.

In response to Ms. Coffey the Legislative Person advised the Committee that Ms. Coffey, Councillor Meade, Ms. DeMont, Ms. Powley, Mr. Reed, Ms. Hutchings, and Ms. Newcombe terms expire in November 2005. That Mr. Harrington, Ms. Mann, Mr. Myer, Mr. Wall, Ms. Wallworth and Ms. MacDonald terms expire in November 2006.

After further discussion and in response to questions by the Committee, the Legislative Assistant advised that a change to the Terms of Reference may not be necessary as the Committee can make a recommendation to Regional Council recommending that staff utilize the audit tool when proposing new by-laws and/or can request that Regional Planning staff

provide an information update regarding the application of Universal Design Principles within the Regional Plan.

The Committee Members agreed that a change to the Terms of Reference was not required at this time and the following motion was placed.

**MOVED BY Ms. Hutchings, seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities invite Regional Planning staff to the next meeting to discuss the following:**

- **Accessibility audit tools.**
- **The incorporation of Universal Design Principles in the Regional Plan.**
- **Current and proposed by-laws relating to accessibility.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Roxanne Innis advised the Legislative Assistant to contact Mr. Austin French to determine whom the appropriate staff persons would be to contact.

The Chair suggested that a working document be prepared in advance and suggested that a subcommittee be formed. In addition to the Chair, Ms. Hutchings and Ms. Coffey volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

In response to Mr. Myer the Committee agreed that Regional Planning staff be invited to the October meeting and that the audit tool be brought forward for discussion and review at the September meeting.

**5.2 Roles** - Discussed as part of 5.1

**5.3 Membership**

**MOVED BY Ms. Macdonald seconded by Mr. Myer that The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommends that Regional Council amend the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Terms of Reference to set the quorum for regular meetings at six (6). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5.4 Principal Issues**

In response to Ms. Coffey, Councillor Murphy advised that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee has been disbanded and that a new committee is in the process of being formed.

After a brief discussion, the Chair in response to various questions from the Committee advised of the following:

- it is not necessary to invite the new Regional Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee to a meeting at this time as there are no current issues
- since the Committees last meeting with the Taxi & Limousine Committee four accessible taxis have been licenced.
- HRM has no jurisdiction to enforce brokers to have a certain percentage of taxis as accessible.

Ms. Coffey commented that a lot of issues are being dealt with outside the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities, that unless you attend the meetings it is difficult to find out what is going on. In response to Ms. Coffey the Legislative Assistant advised that the minutes of public meetings can be obtained online. If you do not have access to the internet that a hard copy can be provided.

Ms. Joanne Coffey advised the Committee of a recent newspaper article regarding the accessibility of City Hall and an e-mail she received regarding the same. The following motion was placed

**MOVED BY Ms. Coffey , seconded by Ms. Powley that an accessibility audit of City Hall be conducted by an outside consultant. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

After further discussion, Councillor Meade advised that Regional Council would likely request a staff report. The Legislative Assistant further advised that there maybe a staff report already available. The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant investigate as to whether or not a staff report is available.

**5.5 Review of Principal Accomplishments - No discussion.**

**5.6 Communication with Council - No discussion.**

**5.7 Communication with Staff - No discussion.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Presentation**

**6.1.1 HRM Active Transportation Plan**

Mr. Chris Lowe, Chief Planner, SGE Acres, advised the Committee that three companies have been hired to prepare an active transportation plan for HRM. The Active Transportation Plan is alternate modes of transportation that does not include automobiles.

The goals of the plan are to :

1. create a connected and safe active transportation plan
2. to increase health and quality of life and encourage automobile users to participate

There are three objectives of the plan:

- define an urban rural and suburban active transportation route
- integrate the active transportation network with the existing transit system
- propose a review of safety and risk management issues in regards to active transportation

The scope of the plan also includes the following:

- identifying and addressing environmental impact of changes
- developing policies, rules and regulations of standards
- developing an implementation schedule outlining funding and cost
- developing a series of plans to identify pathways and bikeways that can be put in the urban and suburban areas as well as drafting by-laws
- creating a framework for education and promotion of active transportation

Mr. Lowe further added that they are receiving a lot of ideas from other groups and would like to discuss these ideas with the Committee and requested to be added to the September agenda. He further advised the Committee that a public meeting will be held in October and that the final document will be ready in January 2006.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner, HRM advised the Committee that they can contact her through the Legislative Assistant if they would like more information from HRM's perspective.

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

- they are looking at any form of mobility, excluding automobiles
- there are many layers to the system such as home to work, visitors, and leisure activities, there is a need to create a system to integrate them all
- the intention is to link into existing and proposed transit facilities
- they are looking at solutions that can work during all seasons

He further commented that there are design principles that include crime prevention through environmental design. These influence crime potential and are widely used.

Mr. Joseph Lilly, Planner, SGE Acres, commented security is an issue and if it is not addressed the trails are unlikely to be used, as such the plan will not be effective.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lilly and Mr. Lowe for their presentation.

7. **MOTIONS** - See item 5.1

8. **ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS** - None

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Mr. Myer requested that "Disabilities Acts" be added to the next agenda.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, 2005, Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5.45p.m.

Stephanie Parsons  
Legislative Assistant