

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**MINUTES**

**November 20, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Terry Myer, Chair  
Mr. Helen Cianfaglione  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Councillor Gary Meade  
Mr. Gary Russell  
Mr. Betty Macdonald

**REGRETS:** Ms. Mary Wallworth  
Mr. Kevin Bulley

**STAFF:** Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m in Halifax Hall, **without a quorum**.

The Committee agreed to move Item 4.1 Sidewalk Renewal Program to the first item of business.

### 4.1 Sidewalk Renewal Program

The Committee welcomed Mr. Jeff Spares, Senior Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services, Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Helen Cianfaglione commented on the poor condition of some sidewalk ramps, and the difficulty this creates for scooter, wheelchair, or walker users. Mr. Spares advised that any time a curb is replaced, the pedestrian ramp is also replaced, or if staff are made aware of a ramp in poor condition, which is not tied to a capital project, it will also be repaired. He further advised that when work is being completed in an intersection, all four corners of the intersection are reviewed and addressed by staff.

Councillor Murphy noted that the ramp at the corner of North and Oxford Streets need to be replaced. Mr. Spares advised that he would review this location and advise.

Mr. Gary Russell suggested that a curb cut be installed at the Argyle Street entrance of City Hall. Mr. Spares indicated that there is no crosswalk at that location, and that it may be a dangerous location for a ramp. He advised he would review this suggestion and advise.

Ms. Betty MacDonald arrived at 4:12 p.m., at which time a **quorum was achieved**.

The Committee discussed accessibility issues at West End Mall, noting that Metro Transit no longer makes stops at the Mall, but at the other end of the parking lot at the new terminal, which is difficult for disabled persons to get to from the mall. The Committee also noted that access to the mall is restricted to the front doors, next to Access Nova Scotia, and the Committee was advised that the lease stipulated that there be an accessible entrance to the mall through Winners. Councillor Meade indicated he would follow up on this matter.

Mr. Russell requested that Mr. Spares look into installing a landing pad at 5991 Spring Garden Road (Robie Professional Centre).

Councillor Murphy encouraged members to call the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000 with reports of sidewalk, curb, and ramp repairs. The Chair encouraged members to share this information with others.

The Committee thanked Mr. Spares for attending.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** - September 18, 2006

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that the minutes of the September 18, 2006 meeting be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The agenda was agreed upon as amended.

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

4.1 **Sidewalk Renewal Program**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

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

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

7. **REPORTS**

7.1 **Bloomfield School**

The Committee discussed the closure of Bloomfield School, and the impact this has had on disabled users. The Committee commented on the many benefits of the facility, such as the wide hallways for wheelchair users and elevator, and the importance of the facility to many HRM residents. The Chair encouraged members to spread the word on the importance of keeping the facilities open. Councillor Murphy clarified that the building was closed because of toxic mold, and that environmental testing is being undertaken.

He further advised that consultation will be completed with user groups to determine the best use for the property, and stressed the importance that the heritage integrity of the property be maintained.

The Committee discussed making a motion to Council, such as "The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities recommend that Regional Council allocate funding to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the Fielding Building in order to keep the facility open." The Committee requested that Councillor Murphy draft a motion for the next Committee meeting.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

The Chair indicated that there has not been a Vice-Chair for the past year, and an election of Chair and Vice-Chair should take place at the January meeting.

The Chair reminded Committee members that if three consecutive meetings are missed, membership may be terminated. He also reviewed the process for reapplication of membership on the Committee.

Mr. Russell noted that after renovations, he discovered that the toilets in the men's washrooms in City Hall were installed too low. He informed the Legislative Assistant and she passed on this information to the department responsible for the renovations. Mr. Russell advised that this problem has since been rectified.

The Committee praised the new accessible playground at the Westmount school.

Ms. Cianfaglione commented on crowding and inadequate seating on the low floor Metro Transit buses. Ms. Macdonald indicated that the railings on the low floor buses are too high, and are difficult to hold on to. Councillor Murphy suggested inviting Mr. Paul McDaniel, General Manager, Metro Transit, to discuss accessibility issues with the Committee. The Legislative Assistant advised she would make arrangements.

Mr. Russell indicated that the Access A Bus Committee, of which he is a member, will be requesting to make a 30 minute power point presentation to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities at either the January, February, or March 2007 meeting.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Committee agreed not to meet in December. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

The following information item was distributed to Committee members:

1. Article extract from CNIB Vision Newsletter, Volume 1, No. 1 August, page 10