

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

October 15, 2007

PRESENT:

Mr. Alan Farquhar, Chair
Mr. Gary Russell
Ms. Rebecca King
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Ms. Mary Newcombe
Ms. Helen Cianfaglione
Ms. Sanaz Gerami
Councillor Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Mr. Kevin Bulley
Mr. Laughie Rutt
Councillor Patrick Murphy

STAFF:

Superintendent Cliff Falkenham, HRP
Mr. Phil Francis, Right of Way Engineering Manager
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER	3
2.	INTRODUCTIONS	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - September 17, 2007	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS	3
5.	REPORTS	3
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	3
6.1	Set a Date for the Wheelchair Simulation	3
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS	3
7.1	Presentation by the NSCC School of Health and Human Services	3
8.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
8.1	Accessibility Audit Data List - Update	4
9.	ADDED ITEMS	4
9.1	Newspaper Boxes	5
9.2	Presentation for Upcoming Meetings	5
10.	NEXT MEETING DATE - November 19, 2007	5
11.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair asked members of the committee to announce their presence for the benefit of visually impaired members.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by Ms. McFayden, seconded by Ms. King that the minutes from September 17, 2007 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

1. Phil Francis, Manger of Right of Way Engineering discussion on newspaper boxes
2. Presentations for upcoming meetings

MOVED by Mr. Russell, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. REPORTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Set a date for the Wheelchair Simulation Event

Mr. Rutt forwarded information indicating that the wheelchair simulation is tentatively scheduled for October 30th. Notification will be sent to Committee members once the date is confirmed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

7.1 Presentation by the NSCC School of Health and Human Services

A presentation was provided by the NSCC School of Health and Human Services on the Strategy for Positive Aging - Aging with a Developmental Disability. Books were distributed to the Committee.

The purpose of the project in to ensure inclusion for all seniors, providing links between seniors and disability groups, and to provide meaningful retirement. Opportunities must be made to ensure social inclusion and a feeling of belonging. Different groups require different needs and one solution does not fit all.

The next stage of the project is to work on a sense of belonging.

Two websites that may be of benefit are listed below:

www.msvu.ca/ARCFamilyWork/publications.asp

www.gov.ns.ca/scs/externallinks.asp#senior_disab

Mr. Farquhar agreed that with the growing population of seniors, provisions must be developed in order to meet the needs of aging persons with development disabilities.

Ms. King inquired where most of the people are currently living. Most persons are currently living with their families or option homes, and some live in assisted living in their own apartments.

Mr. Russell asked if transportation is an issue being addressed on the project. Transportation is not part of the mandate, although it has been identified as a key issue, and these concerns will be brought forward to different agencies involved with transportation issues.

Ms. McFadyen had inquired if this initiative includes individuals with physical disabilities. This committee is only responsible for persons with developmental disabilities, although there is a nationwide project being conducted in Manitoba looking at these same issues for persons with physical disabilities. Mr. Ralph Ferguson is the Nova Scotia representative involved in this project.

Ms. McFadyen raised concerns that this project is looking at the issues of today, and as it continues, will it address the issues with the younger people who need the assistance. Larch does provide assistance, and projects need to be developed to ensure more inclusion for young people.

8. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

8.1 Accessibility Audit - Data List - Update

Ms. McFadyen and Ms. King presented the Accessibility Audit Checklist they had been developing. Ms. McFadyen has solicited information from various groups throughout HRM. A draft of the checklist was distributed to the Committee requesting input at the November meeting.

A request has been made to the Committee to provide their suggestions for the 2008-2009 budget and email them to Mr. Farquhar for discussion at the November meeting.

Ms. McFadyen suggested a park area designated for walking or running dogs. Councillor Meade suggested raised platforms at arenas and accessible doors on HRM facilities.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Newspaper Boxes - Phillip Francis

Mr. Phillip Francis provided information on the regulations as it applies to newspaper boxes throughout the HRM. Administrative Order 37 does address this issue as well lists the approved sites.

Newspaper boxes must be approved and permitted by a licence. They are not to be placed near bus stops or cross walks. If the box does not contain a licence sticker, it is not approved. If a person sees a box with no sticker or if it is an obstruction, a report can be made to the HRM Call Centre 490-4000, it will then be reported to By-law enforcement to be addressed. Currently most enforcement of the newspaper boxes is complaint driven.

9.2 Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

9.2.1 Mr. Russell added that Ms. Jen Powley would like to attend the January meeting to discuss accessible taxi service.

9.2.2 Mr. Farquhar will invite a representative to a future meeting to discuss "Kids with Disabilities".

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will be November 19, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd floor, City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant