

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
MINUTES**

**January 18, 2010**

PRESENT: Mr. Tom Boyd, Vice Chair  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Mr. Troy Nauffts  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Ms. Theresa Horwill

REGRETS: Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair  
Ms. Mary Newcombe  
Mr. Gary Russell  
Ms. Johanne Caron

STAFF: Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant  
Mr. Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management  
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, HRP  
Ms. Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall, with Mr. Tom Boyd as Chair.

### **1.1 Introduction of Committee Members**

This being the first meeting of the Committee since Regional Council made a new appointment, Tom Boyd led the Committee in roundtable introductions.

It was noted that Helen McFadyen, Mary Newcombe and Gary Russell provided regrets for the January meeting. The Legislative Assistant advised that Johanne Caron had provided regrets and has resigned from the Committee effected January 18, 2010.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Mr. Boyd left the Chair at 4:04 p.m., at which time the Legislative Assistant assumed the Chair calling for nominations for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the 2010 term.

**MOVED BY Ms. Joanne Coffey, seconded by Ms. Theresa Horwill that Mr. Tom Boyd be nominated as Chair of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the 2010 term.**

The Legislative assistant called three times for any further nominations, with none being heard:

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Tom Boyd accepted the nomination and the appointment as Chair of the Committee.

**MOVED BY Ms. Joanne Coffey, seconded by Councillor Jerry Blumenthal that Ms. Theresa Horwill be nominated as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the 2010 term.**

The Legislative assistant called three times for any further nominations, with none being heard:

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Theresa Horwill accepted the nomination and the appointment as Vice Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Boyd resumed the Chair at 4:06 p.m.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 14, 2009**

Councillor Wile advised that on page 6, second paragraph, her comments should read: *"An area rate was proposed by the Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) Steering Committee, to determine whether the community wished to fix up the pathway; however, the area rate vote was turned down by the residents of the area."*

Mr. Boyd indicated on page 6, last paragraph, his response should read: *"that the Hamilton Rail was asked to put in audible announcement and be visually displayed in all buses to indicate stops..."*

**MOVED BY Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the minutes of December 14, 2009 as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The following items were proposed to be added to the agenda:

9.1 Committee Representative Appointment to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee

9.2 Committee Representative Appointment to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee

It was noted that Derek Mathers, Taxi Broker, and member of the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, has indicated that he would like to meet with the Advisory Committee with Persons with Disabilities in April.

Following a brief discussion, it was **MOVED BY Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, seconded by Ms. Theresa Horwill, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities defer items 9.1 and 9.2 to the next Committee meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

9.3 Update from Phillip Townsend

**MOVED BY Councillor Mary Wile, seconded by Ms. Theresa Horwill, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING/DEFERRED ITEMS**

### **5.1 2009 Work Plan**

- A copy of the 2010 Committee of Council Annual Work Plan was before the Committee.

Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management, indicated that item 7.3.1 - Recreation Facilities Accessibilities is a complex item and could take multiple meetings to discuss. He noted that from discussions, Committee members may want to have other staff attend a meeting to discuss certain topics. He suggested adding this item to the 2010 Committee of Council Annual Work Plan.

**MOVED BY Councillor Mary Wile, seconded by Ms. Theresa Horwill, that item 7.3.1 - Recreation Facilities Accessibilities be added to the 2010 Committee of Council Annual Work Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6. NEW BUSINESS - None**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Correspondence - None**

### **7.2 Petitions - None**

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Recreation Facilities Accessibilities (*staff update*)**

- An Aquatic Services booklet entitled All about me! was circulated to the Committee.
- Information regarding the Hippocampe was circulated to the Committee.

John Henry, Coordinator, Aquatic Services, advised that Karen McTavish was unable to attend the meeting and sent her regrets. He noted that Rhonda Dea, Aquatic Specialist, and Manager of the Spryfield Wave Pool, was present to assist with questions regarding pool accessibility. The following highlights were noted:

- staff are conducting a study on the Needham Centre regarding accessibility
- staff are reviewing recreation facilities within the Point Pleasant area
- new facilities are being built throughout HRM and there is a priority to

- ensure they are accessible to all residents
- HRM owns and operates Northcliffe, Captain William Spry Centre and the Needham Centre
- Northcliffe recreation centre will be closing its doors once the Canada Games Centre is opened in 2011; the new facility will be built with high standards for accessibility

The Committee raised concern that the Needham Centre should stay open and noted that residents in the area would not want to travel far distances to access a recreation facility. Mr. Henry indicated that he understood that the recommendation of the Needham Centre study, was not to close the facility. Staff are reviewing the options of potentiality decommissioning the facility and rebuild a new facility on that same location or on a site nearby within the community.

- the more amenities that are on the first floor of the facility, the greater the accessibility; elevators do assist with accessibility issues
- the size of land at the Needham Centre presents expansion challenges
- HRM owns land next to the Needham Centre
- the Centennial Pool is owned by HRM and is under a facility lease agreement; HRM does not operate the facility
- certain HRM owned facilities are leased back to the community and a community board will operate the facility on HRM's behalf
- HRM is responsible for major repairs and additions to HRM owned facilities

Mr. Townsend suggested the Committee develop a focus as to how they would like to proceed with the accessibility issue. He also suggested having Karen MacTavish or Betty Lou Killen, who are involved with the Facility Master Plan, provide an overview to the Committee of the direction HRM is headed with regard to its recreation facilities. He further suggested that the Committee could meet with a representative from Community Development to determine what the needs of the communities are with respect to accessibility and develop a plan based on those discussions.

Mr. Townsend indicated that the Committee could ask Mr. Henry to contact the aquatic facilitators at each HRM owned facility to determine what their needs are for accessibility and staff will provide an information report to the Committee.

- facilities need to be accessible before items such as pool lifts are added
- Ms. Dea has been able to confirm arrangements for an adult and junior Hippocampe, which is a beach and all terrain wheelchair that can be used over sand and at pools
- Council has approved funding to purchase beach equipment such as the

- Hippocampe  
the Hippocampe is currently being transported from facility to facility when needed

Ms. Dea provided to the Committee with background information regarding a swimming program in place for persons with disabilities. She advised that parents are encouraged to fill out a booklet regarding their child's needs, likes and dislikes, which is then given to the swimming instructor. She noted that the Hippocampe was sought out as a way for parents to take their disabled children to the beach.

- the Hippocampe can be used at any beach or facility with sand or a parking lot
- significant work is required at HRM and Municipal beaches to make them accessible

Mr. Henry advised that the Committee is welcome to come to one of the new facilities and take a tour and/or hold a meeting there.

### **7.3.2 HRM Trails Accessibilities *(staff update)***

- Draft copies of maps regarding the proposed wheelchair accessible sections of Point Pleasant Park, DeWolfe Park, Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail and St. Margaret's Bay Rail Trail, was circulated to the Committee.

Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, delivered the presentation to the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- the maps provided to the Committee are in draft; staff are in the process of revising the maps as trails become accessible; the maps will be re-printed
- Ms. Debaie and Mr. Rutt tested 15 trails within HRM and approximately six trails can be guaranteed as accessible
- there is only one section of trail that is wheelchair accessible at Point Pleasant Park, which is by the HalTerm parking lot
- staff's criteria for each of the trails was approximately one kilometre of the trail must be accessible by wheelchair either by round trip or one way
- the St. Margaret's Bay Rail Trail has a section of trail that can be accessed by the parking lot; the trail is accessible for approximately one kilometre
- the Beechville Lakeside Timerlea Trail can be accessed from the Coke Plant parking lot

- the DeWolfe Park parking lot is accessible
- there are potentially two more trails for which staff feel that they can guarantee a one kilometre accessible section, MacIntosh Run and the Halifax Urban Greenway
- funding to reprint the maps in a booklet will be available
- wheelchair accessible sections of trails are highlighted in blue on the maps
- there will be six other trails in the new edition of the booklet
- with some changes the Shubie Park could have a section of trail that meets the accessibility criteria

Mr. Rutt advised that it is very important for staff to test out the trails and make sure they are really wheelchair accessible before including them in the booklet. If the trail is not accessible, then it should not be listed. One small barrier can spoil the entire section of trail for someone with a disability. He noted that the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Trail is accessible beyond one kilometre.

Mr. Townsend noted that the new Chester Spur Line, which will be completed in 2010, has a starting point at Joseph Howe Drive and will go out to Beechville Lakeside Timberlea. The entire section of trail will be paved. He could not confirm where the access points.

Mr. Rutt noted that having accessible trails would be a positive feature for HRM's tourism.

Councillor Blumenthal asked whether a connection would be made from Memorial Drive to the Chester Spur Line. Ms. Debaie advised that she could not confirm at this time but would look into this.

### **9.3 Update from Phillip Townsend**

Mr. Townsend provided an update to the Committee regarding ongoing projects. The following was noted:

- work has been completed at the Acadia School in regard to putting in an entrance with automatic door operators
- a Noland Lift has been ordered for the Bedford Lions Pool and is awaiting delivery
- accessibility upgrades are complete at the Bowles Arena; the work included automatic door operators
- a Noland Lift has been installed at the Cole Harbour Pool
- the Creighton Avenue Community Centre is looking for some accessibility

- work (steps and railings); work will be completed by the end of the month; ramps and doors have also been installed
- automatic door operators have been installed at the George Dixon Centre
- ramp and sidewalk upgrades have been completed at the Fairbanks Centre
- a purchase order has been issued for the signals at the Alderney Ferry Terminal; delivery could take approximately two to three weeks
- work has been completed at the Service Dog Park
- the Spryfield Lions Arena wheelchair accessibility work is approximately 10% complete
- a Noland Lift was installed at the Captain William Spry Centre
- accessibility upgrades were done at the Centennial Pool as part of the renovations for its use during the 2009 Canada Summer Games
- a variety of accessibility upgrades have taken place at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre
- work is on hold at the Needham Centre pending discussions
- upgrades at the St. Andrews Centre are still being priced
- staff have done some work regarding washroom accessibility at the Samuel R. Balcolm Recreation Centre in Port Dufferin

Mr. Townsend indicated that HRM has approximately \$140,000 that is uncommitted. There are a number of projects that have not been included at this time. There will be more funds committed, approximately \$150,000 in 2010/2011 for accessibility work. He noted that there are other accessibility initiatives ongoing. There are other monies being used to enhance accessibility within HRM facilities.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Proposed 2010 Meeting Schedule**

- A copy of the 2010 Meeting Schedule was before the Committee.

It was noted that the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting falls within March Break. The Committee agreed to reschedule the March meeting to March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Committee raised concern regarding quorum for the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and agreed to reschedule the meeting to February 22, 2010.

**MOVED BY Councillor Wile, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities approve the 2010 Meeting Schedule, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.3 Update from Phillip Townsend**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting, see page 8.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held February 22, 2010.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Krista Tidgwell  
Legislative Assistant

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**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Correspondence from the Canadian Paraplegic Association (Nova Scotia) regarding the Victor Thibault Award
2. Extract of Terms of Reference - Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities