

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
MINUTES**

**November 17, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair  
Mr. Gary Russell, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Tom Boyd  
Ms. Mary Newcombe  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Councillor Mary Wile

**ABSENT:** Ms. Rebecca King [with regrets]  
Ms. Sanaz Gerami [with regrets]  
Mr. Alan Farquhar

**STAFF:** Superintendent Cliff Falkenham - Patrol Division (HRP)  
Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant  
Ms. Sandra T. Riley, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Ms. Helen McFadyen, Chair, in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. McFadyen asked members of the Committee and all speakers to identify him/herself audibly for clarification on the record.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** -September 15, 2008 and October 20, 2008

**MOVED by Mr. Russell, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the minutes of September 15, 2008 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**MOVED By Ms. Coffey, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that the minutes of October 20, 2008 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

Additions:

5.2 Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams

Revisions:

Item 5.2 will be changed to 5.3

Item 5.3 becomes 5.4

The Chair advised that Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Licencing, HRP, sent his regrets for today's meeting of the ACPD.

**MOVED BY Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the order of business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

5. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 **Mr. Mike McCarty - Veith Street Gallery and Project "CSE 6 x 6"**

Mr. Mike McCarty, Curator, Veith Street Gallery was before the Advisory Committee to give a presentation regarding an art project they are currently working on to showcase art created by persons with disabilities. He circulated a copy of his presentation, with

illustrations of the art in Project "CSE 6 x 6". Mr. Michael Seary, Director and Founder of the Organization and Mr. Gerard MacNeil, Curator for Education, spoke to the Committee regarding the kinds of projects that are involved and their roles in the organization. Mr. MacNeil advised that they are trying to encourage other organizations to take part in the same type of projects for recognition of persons with disabilities and their artistic abilities. They advised that they presently have 70 artists showcasing their arts in their two galleries in HRM. A discussion ensued and the representatives took questions of clarification from the ACPD.

The Committee suggested that Veith Gallery contact the HRM Cultural Advisory Committee for direction on funding and display options. The Veith Gallery Representatives and the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities further discussed display options in many venues. Mike McCarty advised that he would be speaking to the people on the HRMbyDesign project some time regarding whether this project could be designated as a public works in the future.

## **5.2 Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams**

Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams addressed the ACPD. He advised that he supports the idea of sensitivity training for taxi drivers, however, not just for persons with disabilities, but for persons of different cultures, languages, religions, etc. The following requisites were noted for inclusion in driver training:

- Sensitivity training
- Cultural and religious differences awareness
- Criminal records check
- Geography test; one year to complete a road test
- Evaluation on information gained through a 'mystery shopper'
- Create a 'voluntary' workshop; make it attractive to attend
- Training on how to handle wheelchairs
- Training on correct conduct with Service animals
- Community Awareness training
- Ability to speak English to ensure understanding

The Committee was advised that the ACPD should continue to attempt to contact Kevin Hindle or Dave Steele. Deputy Mayor Adams advised he will speak to Rob MacNeil, the Staff Sergeant responsible for licencing, to outline some of the issues that have been raised.

The Chair will contact Ms. Jen Powley to see whether she has heard from Mayor Kelly regarding the meeting she had with him regarding accessible buses and taxis.

Ms. Coffey volunteered to put together a one-pager to distribute from this committee. The Committee was also advised that the ACPD get in contact in regards to TLC doing a small presentation [½ hour] to the ACPD regarding a small workshop for new drivers. The Chair

expressed the need to work in some kind of mandatory training for new drivers.

**5.3 Mr. Phil Townsend - Disbursement of Remaining 200K - current status of 'list'; money disbursed and project progress - Update**

The Committee expressed the desire to have progress reports on when something is actually implemented that they have recommended to Regional Council. A current status list from Mr. Townsend is desirable.

Ms. McFadyen advised that she would contact Mr. John Charles regarding the off leash parks.

The Chair expressed appreciation, on behalf of the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities on the fact that Mr. Rutt volunteers to go out and get information and facts for the ACPD, particularly, his recent Assessment Report on the Spryfield Lion's Arena

Mr. Rutt advised that Mr. Wentzell called him last week and it did not look like they needed the lift and could just use a ramp instead. He advised that Mr. Wentzell will come back to the ACPD with a revised list.

**5.4 Updates on Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) and Taxi and Limousine Committee (Gary Russell)**

This item was previously discussed with Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams in Item 5.2. Mr. Russell gave the ACPD brief updates on the Cultural Advisory Committee and the Taxi and Limousine Committee.

He advised that the Taxi and Limousine Committee wanted the ability to transfer a roof light to another taxi driver when one driver becomes disabled or passes away. It was the decision of the Committee to retire the number of one recent driver, however, this discussion is not at an end as a decision has not been reached regarding future incidences of this nature.

In response to Ms. Coffey's query regarding rate increases, Mr. Russell advises that the majority of drivers do not want an increase because of the rate of gas and implementation of the changes would be costly; the metres are still calculated at the old GST rate.

Regarding the Cultural Advisory Committee, Mr. Russell had circulated two documents, electronically, entitled "HRM Cultural Governance Model" - dated October 10, 2008 and "HRM Cultural Operating Strategy" - dated October 10, 2008, for the ACPD to review prior to the meeting for discussion.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1 From Mike McCarty to Chair**
- 7.2 From Gary Russell to Chair (re: SGR Landing Pad resolution)**
- 7.3 From Laughlin Rutt - Report on Spryfield Lions Arena accessibility to Darrell Wentzell**
- 7.4 From Councillor Murphy to Chair - end of service remarks to committee**
- 7.5 From Dan Power to Chair - Ferry terminal doors audible system options**

The Committee discussed the electronic correspondence that was circulated prior to the meeting.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

Added Items Agenda:

- 9.1 HRM Cultural Governance Model - dated October 10, 2008**
- 9.2 HRM Cultural Operating Strategy - dated October 10, 2008**

These added items were discussed in Item 6.4.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Due to calendar conflicts and the upcoming holidays, the next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities will be January 19, 2008, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, City Hall.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

Sandra T. Riley  
Legislative Assistant