

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM MINUTES

May 16, 2011

PRESENT:

Mr. Tom Boyd, Chair  
Ms. Theresa Horwill, Vice Chair  
Councillor Mary Wile  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Mr. Troy Nauffts  
Mr. Brian Aird  
Mr. Jack Jones  
Mr. David MacLean  
Ms. Cindy Bryant

ABSENT:

Ms. Mary Newcombe

STAFF:

Mr. Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant  
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, HRP  
Mr. Phillip Townsend, Director, IAM  
Mr. Darren Young, Project Manager, Facility Development, IAM  
Ms. Pam Lovelace, Legislative Support

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05pm in the Boardroom of the Canada Games Centre, 26 Raddall Drive, Halifax.

Roundtable introductions were held for the benefit of new members.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Mr. Troy Nauffts, that the minutes of March 21, 2011 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair noted that, with regard to Item 4.2 of the March 21, 2011 minutes, a letter had been sent to the Family Court with suggestions for accessibility equipment for the building, as the Accessibility fund does not cover costs for the requested equipment.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Added item:

8.1 Focus Group Meeting

The agenda was accepted as amended.

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING / DEFERRED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Work Plan**

Prior to reviewing the Work Plan, Ms. Bryant requested information on accessibility issues for hearing impaired committee members. Ms. Bryant submitted a document on CART – Communication Access Realtime Translation. She asked if these were issued previously brought up by committee members.

Mr. Boyd noted that it was an accessibility issue that has been overlooked in the past, however the question was not raised during their visits HRM facilities.

Mr. Nauffts asked for clarification on the system that is use in theatres.

Ms. Bryant explained that those are loop systems. She noted that during the Canada Winter Games hearing impairment issues were not considered in the delivery of services, therefore it was difficult to hear much of the activities.

Ms. Bryant told the committee she would contact the Legislative Assistant and ask if there is a hearing assistance system in place for use.

Mr. Rutt read out loud the document submitted by Ms. Bryant.

Mr. Boyd agreed that the Clerk's Office may have more information about a suitable apparatus for Ms. Bryant.

Mr. Boyd asked if everyone had any questions regarding the Work plan noting that the Committee will continue to act on these priorities.

Councillor Wile asked about accessible Taxi services.

Mr. Boyd and Ms. Horwill confirmed that the taxi and Limousine Committee is currently on hiatus.

Mr. Jones noted that a two-page document given to Taxi operators was an awareness and education piece.

Mr. Boyd commented on the liability issues associated with taxi drivers assisting disabled passengers in and out of their taxi, and escorting them to buildings.

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded Mr. David MacLean, that the work plan be accepted as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Boyd explained the new Standing Committee structure for the committee. The Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM now falls under the Standing Committee for Transportation.

Due to the change in committee structure, it is recommended that the wording of Terms of Reference may need to be revised from "To Advise Council" to "To Advise the Standing Committee on Transportation". The Committee requests the Legislative Assistant's assistance in determining the most appropriate wording based on the new committee structure.

**MOVED by Ms. Theresa Horwill, seconded Councillor Blumenthal, that the Terms of Reference be accepted and revised as determined by the Legislative Assistant. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **5.2 List of Committee members**

Mr. Boyd requested that committee members send phone numbers and email addresses to the Legislative Assistant. When meetings are cancelled or moved to another location, it's important to be able to reach members.

Mr. Boyd acknowledged that there may be confidentiality issues around that information, and if members do not want their information handed to other committee members to let the Legislative Assistant know.

Mr. Boyd congratulated committee members for recent wins, including Mr. Rutt for Bronze Wheelchair Championship, Ms. Horwill for Volunteer of the Year, Mr. Nauffts for a Haliwood Award and the Hydrostone for being considered the second best neighbourhood in Canada.

Councillor Wile was acknowledged for her recent assistance in coordinating transportation.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – None**

### **6.1 Correspondence - None**

### **6.2 Petitions - None**

### **6.3 Presentations - None**

Committee members were given a tour of the Canada Games Centre.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Priority List for accessibility deficiencies**

Mr. Townsend acknowledged that the priority list is extensive, and despite best efforts that Canada Games Centre has accessibility issues. It will be added to the list.

Mr Townsend told the committee that the latest capital budget has been approved with over \$400,000 for accessibility. IAM staff member Mike MacDonald is no longer available to provide assistance to the Committee, therefore, Mr. Darren Young, Project Manager, Facility Development – Buildings, IAM, will now work with the Committee. Mr. Young will attempt to package some of these priority costs for the committee so the committee can start to make decisions.

Mr. Townsend confirmed the issues at Cole Harbour Place have been fixed. There is a request from Eastern Shore community Centre for an accessibility review. They have put together a list of items they deem most important.

Ms. Horwill requested that a few committee members visit that facility along with Councillor Streach.

Mr. Townsend provided an update on the signals at the ferry terminals. Some are working, others are not.

The Committee discussed the need for accessible bathrooms in the Dartmouth Ferry terminal.

Mr. Boyd noted that the signage in most of the buildings is poor. He suggested that staff place a purchase of visual and tactile signage and have it on hand for installation.

**MOVED by Mr. Troy Nauffts, seconded Ms. Theresa Horwill, that HRM order some samples of visual and tactile signage for the committee to test. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Boyd recommended a review of both the Woodside Community Centre and Chocolate Lake.

Councillor Blumenthal asked about upgrades in the North end.

Mr. Townsend said that HRM staff are currently going through the facility master plan to determine next steps. Staff looks to the committee for direction as to what the committee deems to be priority.

Councillor Blumenthal asked for clarification on the expenses undertaken for committee members to visit HRM facilities to review them for accessibility issues.

**MOVED by Ms. Theresa Horwill, seconded Councillor Wile, that the Clerk's Office provide committee members with clarification on mileage remuneration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Wile noted that all three quotes had been received for the upgrade work to the Centennial Arena.

Mr. Townsend said that the Centennial has a management agreement, similar to Cole Harbour Place, and they can get the work done, send an invoice to Mr. Young for approval. The cheque request to HRM Finance will then be issued jointly payable to the contractor and the Centennial Arena.

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded Ms. Theresa Horwill, that Mr. Townsend give the Centennial Arena direction to proceed with the recommended fixes based on quotes received. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Townsend said that HRM can also direct the Sackville Sports Stadium to follow procedure and fix the first set of doors to the rink so that they are accessible. Mr. Young will contact the Sackville Sportsplex.

Discussion followed on the need for a pool lift at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

**MOVED by Ms. Theresa Horwill, seconded Mr. Troy Nauffts, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Dartmouth Sportsplex get a lift for the pool. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Townsend agreed that there is need to have a look at the Chocolate Lake Centre. He requested that the committee members include Mr. Young on the email list.

There was question as to whether or not the Scott Pond Camp should be on the committee's list as it may be owned by the Province.

Mr. Townsend suggested that when visiting these facilities that committee members keep the review consistent and ensure the information that is captured is comparable and consistent.

Mr. Nauffts requested an updated list be sent out to committee members.

Mr. Rutt noted that when the review of the Canada Games Centre was done, they focussed on the building being used for the Canada Games, not general use.

Ms. Bryant suggested that although there is good work being done on The Forum, an accessible viewing area was not part of the upgrades.

Mr. Townsend noted that a viewing area was completed for the Spryfield Lions Centre.

Mr. Boyd noted that Cole Harbour Place has a viewing area.

## **7.2 Update on accessibility assessment of HRM owned buildings**

This item was discussed concurrently with 7.1.

## **7.3 Accessibility deficiencies in Canada Games facilities**

The committee compiled a detailed list of deficiencies.

# **8. ADDED ITEMS**

## **8.1 Metro Transit – Universal Accessibility Study**

Committee members were invited to attend the second round of consultation on the Metro Transit Universal Accessibility Planning Study, Thursday May 26, 10:00am-12:00pm at Metro Transit, Training Room A, 200 Ilsley Ave, Dartmouth.

## **8.2 Eastern Shore community meeting**

Deferred to next meeting.

# **9. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE CHAIR / APPOINTMENTS**

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Legislative Assistant.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Mr. Jack that Ms. Theresa Horwill be nominated Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.**

The Legislative Assistant called three more times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

**MOVED by Mr. Troy Nauffts, seconded Ms. Cynthia Bryant, that nominations for the position of Chair be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**ORIGINAL MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Theresa Horwill then assumed the Chair. Ms. Horwill called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Mr. David MacLean, that Mr. Tom Boyd be nominated Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.**

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, it was:

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded Mr. Troy Nauffts, that nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**ORIGINAL MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair declared Mr. Tom Boyd the Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

The Chair then asked for volunteers to represent the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Taxi and Limousine Committee.

Mr. Troy Nauffts volunteered to sit on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and Ms. Cynthia Bryant volunteered for the Taxi and Limousine Committee, although that committee is currently on hiatus.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 20, 2011**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

Pamela Lovelace  
Legislative Support