

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 19, 2011

PRESENT: Theresa Horwill, Chair
Tom Boyd, Vice Chair
Mary Newcombe
Cynthia Bryant
Councillor Mary Wile
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal

REGRETS: Troy Nauffts
Brian Aird
David MacLean

STAFF: Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Human Resources
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police
Darren Young, Project Manager, Infrastructure & Asset
Management
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 18, 2011	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
4.1	HRM Tender Specifications – CSA Standards	3
5.	NEW BUSINESS	3
5.1	Committee Member Resignation – Jack Jones.....	3
5.2	Service Dog Park – Centennial Pool Parking Passes.....	4
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS	4
6.1	Correspondence	4
6.1.1	Letter to Councillor Harvey from NS Director of Housing (information item only).....	4
6.2	Petitions - None	4
6.3	Presentation.....	4
6.3.1	Accessibility Features of the Oval – Terry Galligher, Facility Development, Infrastructure & Asset Management.....	4
7.	REPORTS	5
7.1	Update on Accessibility Assessment of HRM Owned Buildings	5
7.1.1	Staff Update:	5
	• Eastern Shore Community Centre	5
	• North Woodside Community Centre.....	5
	• Needham Centre.....	5
	• Centennial Arena	5
	• Tallahassee School.....	6
	• Door Operators	6
	• Dartmouth Transit Terminal	6
7.1.2	Committee Member Update:	6
	• Needham Centre.....	6
	• St. Mary’s Boat Club	6
7.2	Bus Stop Annunciation.....	7
8.	ADDED ITEMS	7
8.1	Crosswalk & Flashing Pedestrian Lights - Barrington & Young Streets – Councillor Blumenthal.....	7
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE – October 17 th , 2011.....	7
10.	ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Regrets were noted from Troy Nauffts and Brian Aird.

Councillor Wile distributed information on the MV1 accessible vehicle for the information of Committee members.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 18, 2011

MOVED by Councillor Blumental, seconded by Mary Newcombe, that the minutes of July 18, 2011 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Crosswalk & Flashing Pedestrian Lights – Barrington & Young Streets - Councillor Blumenthal

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 HRM Tender Specifications – CSA Standards

Mr. Darren Young, Project Manager, Infrastructure & Asset Management, advised that he brought his copy of the CSA accessibility guidelines to the meeting for members to review if they wish. He noted that while most of these guidelines can only be incorporated into new buildings, the Committee would like them to be incorporated to existing facilities as much as possible. The Chair has asked that Mr. Young investigate whether the Metro Centre is in compliance with the CSA guidelines.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Committee Member Resignation – Jack Jones

A copy of correspondence from Mayor Kelly to Mr. Jones dated September 8, 2011 was before the Committee.

The Chair informed the Committee that Mr. Jones has resigned because of other commitments. Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, informed Committee members that vacancies for all HRM Boards and Committees would be advertised for applications in October, and in the meantime if Committee members are aware of any interested individuals, they should encourage them to put forward an application.

The Committee discussed membership and Committee composition, and what would constitute a conflict of interest.

5.2 Service Dog Park – Centennial Pool Parking Passes

The Chair and Supt. Falkenham have changed the Centennial Pool Service Dog Parking Passes to read 'Dog Run', to avoid confusion with parking for pool uses. Passes are currently with Ms. Jennifer Weagle and park users can contact her to obtain a pass. Supt. Falkenham is going to design an application for the passes.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Letter to Councillor Harvey from NS Director of Housing (information item only)

A letter from Mr. Dan Troke, Executive Director, Employment Support, Income Assistance & Housing, Nova Scotia Community Services, to Councillor Harvey dated July 18, 2011 was before the Committee, for their information only. This letter was in response to Councillor Harvey's letter before the Committee at the June 20, 2011 meeting. No action was required on this item.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Accessibility Features of the Oval – Terry Galligher, Facility Development, Infrastructure & Asset Management

Mr. Terry Galligher, Facility Development, Infrastructure & Asset Management, distributed a handout to accompany his presentation.

Mr. Galligher shared with the Committee that the Oval was successful last year far beyond expectations and is being modified to accommodate the high volume of users. He emphasized that universal accessibility for the Oval is being strived for. There will be increased access from Cogswell St.; the height of the trailers will be dropped down to make them more accessible; and the signage and sound systems are being improved to make the rink more accessible in the winter. In the summer, the Oval will be used for a

number of activities on wheels, including wheelchair races. The paths around the Oval will also be widened to make them more accessible.

The Committee requested that Ms. Karen MacTavish, General Manager, Community Recreation Services, attend the October meeting to further discuss accessible recreational opportunities at the Oval for wheelchair users.

Mr. Laughlin Rutt, HRM Diversity Consultant, also noted an issue that arose last winter with regard to accessible parking during the Canada Games and has requested that Mr. Galligher look into the possibility of accessibility parking spaces somewhere close to the Oval. Staff will forward details of this request to transportation staff for consideration in the Halifax Commons Pay and Display project which is currently underway.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Update on Accessibility Assessment of HRM Owned Buildings

7.1.1 Staff Update:

Mr. Young provided the Committee with updates on the following facilities:

- **Eastern Shore Community Centre**
This facility is 98% complete, waiting to install a fully accessible door.
- **North Woodside Community Centre**
This facility is currently out for quote, quotes are due in this week.
- **Needham Centre**
This facility was not addressed because it is not on the top 10 list.
- **Centennial Arena**
This facility was not approved because there is no room for sliding doors and acquiring and installing new doors does not make fiscal sense in Mr. Young's opinion. The Chair noted that she has had issues with the current doors jamming. Mr. Young is going to investigate and have someone repair the existing doors if necessary.

The Committee noted that in May they made it clear that it was their desire to have one arena that was totally accessible. They believe that it would make sense for that arena to be Centennial Arena. Mr. Young noted the cost of the renovations that would be required as a setback. Councillor Wile offered to also raise this issue with the Arena's committee at their meeting.

The Chair discussed her concerns around the cost of the washroom renovations at Centennial Arena. The Chair and Mr. Boyd expressed that

they had expected the washrooms to be much more accessible for the price that was paid.

- **Tallahassee School**
Culvert repairs required for wheelchair access to this facility have been completed.
- **Door Operators**
Staff are close to finalizing the process of awarding contract for the purchase and installation of door operators. They are going to allow one of the contenders to install door operators in three buildings (Eastern Shore, Centennial Arena, Alderney Landing) and if their work is completed well in the allotted timeframe they will be awarded the contract. If the work is not satisfactory, the contract will be awarded to another contender.
- **Dartmouth Transit Terminal**
Plans have been approved and the contractors are in place to begin clearing the site tomorrow.

7.1.2 Committee Member Update:

- **Needham Centre**
Mr. Boyd noted concerns with the state of repair of this facility, in particular the ramps for wheelchair access to the building. He believes that the single existing usable handicapped spot is not enough and that one should be added. He also suggested that if a few door operators for the front door were installed along with an elevator and a lift in the pool the first floor would become accessible. There is also a tile on the 2nd floor that needs to be fixed in a timely manner. Mr. Boyd estimated that the building could be accessible with a few hundred thousand dollars worth of renovations.

Councillor Wile left the meeting at 5:30 p.m., at which quorum was lost.

The Committee discussed the need for accessible recreation facilities in the North End. Mr. Townsend notes that while he understands the Committee's concerns this kind of project would have to fit into a much larger picture for HRM plans and priorities for the delivery of recreation services. Councillor Blumenthal offered assistance with the funding for repairs to the Needham Centre.

The Committee requested that Ms. Karen MacTavish discuss the long term plans for delivery of accessible recreation services when she comes in to talk about the Oval at October's meeting.

- **St. Mary's Boat Club**

Mr. Boyd reported that the Boat Club was assessed on a few occasions, with a concentration on access to the lower level. He proposed three possible options: option one was to install a 144 ft. ramp which would be out of the question; install an elevator or lift between the ramp and lower level; or install a lift from the northwest corner of the upper deck outside that would be accessible inside and outside.

Mr. Boyd indicated that the two sets of stairs (lower deck & parking lot to driveway) both have rails that are too short in length which makes it difficult for the visually impaired to determine where the steps begin. He also indicated that yellow strips are needed on all of the steps.

Mr. Townsend reminded the Committee to carefully consider the projects on the top ten priority list for the best value for the highest amount of users.

Ms. Cindy Bryant left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

7.2 Bus Stop Annunciation

This item was deferred to next month's agenda due to time constraints.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Crosswalk & Flashing Pedestrian Lights - Barrington & Young Streets – Councillor Blumenthal

This item was deferred to next month's agenda due to lack of quorum.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 17, 2011

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Jenny Benson
Legislative Support

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Updated Committee contact information sheet.