



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
October 20, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Pottie, Chair  
Krista Daley, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor Steve Craig  
Patricia Gates  
Mark MacKenzie  
Yvon Clement  
Troy Nauffts

**REGRETS:** Bob Hayter

**STAFF:** Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, HRM Human Resources  
Damian Stapledon, Community Recreation  
Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant  
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:57 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September, 15, 2014**

Councillor Watts noted a revision to Item 8.1. It should read ‘Minister’s Advisory Panel on Accessible Legislation’.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Ms. Krista Daley, that the minutes of September 15, 2014, be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Accessibility of Public Events
- 8.2 Wheelmap.org Update
- 8.3 Sidewalk Patios
- 8.4 Accessible Taxis

**MOVED by Ms. Krista Daley, seconded by Ms. Patricia Gates, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions – None**

**6.3 Presentations - None**

**7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**7.1. Potential Sites for New Service Dog Park – *Planning & Infrastructure/Real Property Planning Staff***

Ms. Margaret Soley of Planning & Infrastructure informed the Committee that the Planning & Infrastructure Staff were asked to examine new site options for the existing Service Dog Park.

Mr. Jan Skora of Planning & Infrastructure informed the Committee that staff identified 16 potential sites for the new park, 8 in Halifax and 8 in Dartmouth. He reviewed the Site Selection Criteria with the Committee. All potential sites have to: be on an accessible bus route, be near accessible street parking, have on-site parking, be located near an HRM Recreation Facility, and be near an active transportation trail.

The sites outlined for the Committee were:

- Site 1: 5940 South Street, Special Education Authority Site behind the building where the parking lot is now. Concerns include the fact that the province owns the land.
- Site 2: 5940 South Street, Special Education Authority Site in front where the grassy area is now.
- Site 3: Upper Flinn Park, MacDonald Street (near Quinpool Rd.)
- Site 4: Chebucto Rd. Park, St. Matthias St.
- Site 5: Murray Warrington Park, Brunswick Street
- Site 6: St. Stephens School Park, Leeds Street
- Site 7: Chisholm Avenue Park, Chisholm Avenue
- Site 8: Bi-Hi Park, Ashburn Avenue
- Site 9: TIR land, Pleasant Street
- Site 10: Northwood Community Centre, Oceanview Drive
- Site 11: Parking area, Geary Street (belongs to Halifax Water, not Halifax right now)
- Site 12: Dartmouth Commons, Windmill Road
- Site 13: Dartmouth Commons, Nantucket Avenue
- Site 14: Victoria Park, Dawson Street
- Site 15: Victoria Road & Woodland Avenue (Halifax Police Community Operation currently in the area)
- Site 16: Brule Street Park, Victoria Road (issue is that it is in proximity to a high voltage power line)

When asked, the Committee requested that Site 8, Site 6, and Site 4 be removed from the list. Councillor Watts also requested that sites that do not already have a use (such as Site #6) be considered first.

Committee members emphasized the need for potential sites to be visible, out of industrialized areas and have easy access to parking. The Committee requested that the sites located close to public transportation hubs, like the site near the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal, be examined more closely.

In response to the Committee's request that 2 sites be chosen – one in Halifax and one in Dartmouth – staff and Councillors informed Committee members that the budget will allow for one site this year, with a possible second site the following year.

Mr. Skora informed the Committee that all of the potential sites are bigger than the current Service Dog Park, with one exception.

Committee members expressed concerns regarding public use of the Service Dog Park. Mr. Skora shared that the idea behind Site 1 and Site 2 are that access would be better monitored and controlled.

Committee members thanked staff for presenting them with the possible options. Mr. Skora requested that the Committee provide his department with their feedback in the next week so that more detailed analysis can be done on a smaller list of sites before the next Committee meeting in November.

## **7.2. Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility – Nomination 2 AAC reps**

The Construction Regulations for Accessibility and Adaptability in Dwelling Units Community Council Report was before the Committee.

A letter from the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee regarding the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility was before the Committee along with the Draft Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Jim Donovan, Municipal Compliance and Planning and Development informed the Committee that the Province is requesting HRM's participation on the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility. Council asked that 2 representatives recommended by the Committee be nominated to the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Committee recommended that Mr. Troy Nauffts and Mr. Laughlin Rutt be nominated.

**MOVED by Councillor Steve Craig, Seconded by Ms. Krista Daley, that Mr. Troy Nauffts and Mr. Laughlin Rutt be nominated to the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **7.3. Central Library Tour Recap**

The Committee was very impressed by their tour of the Halifax Central Library and felt that library staff heard their feedback and are following up.

Ms. Pat Gates re-emphasized the need for a railing in the library's auditorium space and stated that it is not real accessibility without a railing. The Chair informed Ms. Gates that the grey paint on the stairs is going to be changed to a different colour. Ms. Gates informed the Committee that the Library is not going to use the CELA System for audio books, and the NNELS System is going to be used instead, which Ms. Gates stated as not providing the same level of accessibility for individuals with visual disabilities. Councillor Watts stated that she would follow up on this matter.

### **7.4 Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility Update**

Ms. Weagle informed the Committee of the various roles for volunteers at the Town Hall Meeting: sited guides, greeters in the space and at both entrances, mic handlers, speakers list table, read written comments/questions.

In response to Committee questions, Ms. Weagle said she would check in with Mr. Ahmad Kidwai regarding where the Access-A-Bus bus will be pulling up. The Committee also recommended that volunteers be available to assist attendees with writing comments.

Councillor Watts also informed the Committee that a bus has been arranged specifically for individuals leaving the meeting, going to the Mumford Terminal.

With regard to the presenters, items raised last year will be responded to along with the updates that are being provided.

Councillor Steve Craig and Ms. Jennifer Weagle are going to be meeting on Tuesday to run through all of the details and last minute changes.

Mr. Stapledon informed the Committee that a number of individuals participated in the community engagement sessions that Community and Recreation Services put on, so he will be providing feedback in that regard to attendees at the Town Hall Meeting.

### **7.5 Update – Accessibility Assessment HRM Owned/Operated Buildings**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **7.6 Committee Member Updates**

#### **7.6.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Bob Hayter**

Deferred to next meeting.

#### **7.6.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Pat Gates**

Ms. Gates informed the Committee that the Driver/Passenger Code of Ethics was approved with the Transportation Standing Committee with one revision.

**7.6.3 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee – Krista Daley**

Ms. Daley informed the Committee that Crosswalk Safety Day is November 5<sup>th</sup> with a full day campaign. Statistics show that there are a large number of accident late fall, which is why the date was chosen.

Councillor Watts shared that she likes the themes 'We are all traffic' and 'Heads up Halifax'.

Mr. Rutt suggested that the Committee examine the crosswalk at the corner of South and Barrington St. with the newly installed rumble strips on the curb cuts.

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Accessibility of Public Events**

The municipality put on a public event that the Speaker of the House could not attend because he is in a wheelchair. There is a question about whether something should be put forward by the Accessibility Committee around what requirements should be in place around accessibility at public events.

Mr. Rutt shared that he has a list around steps to take to make an event more accessible that he offered to share with Ms. Weagle to send to the Committee. Ms. Daley also shared that the municipality could include accessibility features that will be provided on invitations to public events followed by a suggestion that if individuals require additional accessibility features to please get in contact.

**MOVED by Ms. Krista Daley, seconded by Mr. Troy Nauffts, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests staff to develop standards and protocol for accessibility at municipal public engagement events. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.2 Wheelmap.org Update**

Mr. Rutt presented Wheelmap.org to the Transportation Standing Committee. In response, they requested a staff report on the possibility of the municipality utilizing wheelmap.org or a similar online resource to increase accessibility in Halifax.

**8.3 Sidewalk Patios**

There is a Public Hearing on sidewalk patios tomorrow (Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014) at Council.

**8.4 Accessible Taxis**

Mr. Kevin Hindle presented to the Transportation Standing Committee. In response, a Motion was passed instructing staff to consult further with the Taxi & Limousine Group.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- **Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility – Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,** Cafetorium, Bedford Hammonds Plans Community Centre, 202 Innovation Drive, Bedford
- **Next Regular Meeting – Monday, November 17, 2014, 4:00 p.m.,** Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support