



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 29, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Steve Craig  
Patricia Gates, Chair  
Gerry Post  
Meredith Fillmore  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Sue Uteck  
Mikiko Terashima  
Yvon Clement

**REGRETS:** Nancy Beaton  
Krista Daley, Vice Chair

**STAFF:** Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, HRM Human Resources  
Darren Young, Project Manager, HRM Planning & Infrastructure  
Glen Bannon, Manager, Transit Operations  
Ahmad Kidawi, Manager, Accessible Transit  
Cathy Collett, 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 Accessibility Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:50 p.m.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2016**

MOVED by Ms. Sue Uteck, seconded by Councillor Steve Craig

**THAT the minutes of January 18, 2016 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Post asked whether or not the Accessibility Workshop meeting discussed at the last meeting was going to happen. Ms. Collett informed the Committee that she would look into it and report back.

Mr. Clement requested that the Agenda and Minutes be circulated in Word format as well as PDF.

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

MOVED by Ms. Meredith Fillmore, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

**THAT the Order of Business be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – None**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – None**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence – None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation**

**7.3.1 Improving Accessibility on Gottingen Street for People with Visual Impairments –  
*Kaitlyn Walker***

Ms. Walker introduced herself and explained that she is working on this project as part of her Master's thesis at Dalhousie University.

The goal was to assess Gottingen Street to identify design options that could improve the level of safety and accessibility for persons with visual impairments. Focus was only on public spaces.

Project had 3 main steps: 1. Catalogue best practices and create assessment criteria based on document from CNIB 2. Visit & assess site and 3. Recommend potential solutions.

Ms. Walker found that the problems fell into the 3 general areas of pathways, crossings and bus stops.

A solution to the issue of the sandwich board issue was presented by the Middle Spoon on Argyle Street. They use a light projection of their logo on the sidewalk. It still advertises on the street but is barrier-free.

Findings are that on a street accessible to individuals with visual impairments hazards need to be predictable, spatial information needs to be available through different sensory cues, key destinations need to be detectable.

Committee members complimented Kaitlyn for her great work and expressed how heartwarming it is to see this level of attention being paid to accessibility issues by local universities.

The Committee emphasized the importance of adopting standards that are at least as high as the national standards, and implementing them in everything that Halifax does.

The Chair thanked Kaitlyn for doing an excellent job.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 STAFF**

Mr. Darren Young informed the Committee that the swipe capability to exit the Service Dog Park has been removed for safety reasons, specifically to ensure that if someone were to drop or lose their swipe card in the park they would not be locked in. A number of Committee members expressed concerns around the general public having easier access to the Service Dog Park at this time. Mr. Young will continue to work on solutions for this issue.

Solutions put forward by the Committee included having the dogs wear something and making the entrance area larger with the push button in the middle.

MOVED by Councillor Waye Mason, seconded by Mr. Gerry post

**THAT individuals not on the Committee be permitted to speak.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Two-third majority vote required.

Mr. Delehanty from Accessible Media noted that they released a story on the dog park nationally and there has been lots of traction – over 40,000 hits on the Facebook post. Thousands of individuals posted positively, envious of the dog park that we have regardless of these issues.

Mr. Young also noted that he went to the Halifax Central Library to investigate concerns raised at the last Committee meeting. Unfortunately the individual who had put forward the specific issues was unable to meet Darren there.

### **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **9.2.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Councillor Mason**

On street bicycle parking was piloted to turn a car parking spot into a couple of bike racks, a project that will be piloted again.

The ATAC was asked to express its opinion on TransCanada Trail connection be going through Dartmouth into Halifax. It will connect with the Woodside Ferry Terminal and into Halifax on the ferry.

**9.2.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Gerry Post**

HRM staff informed the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group that they are presenting a major report to Council based on the report done last year.

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

Ms. Daley was not in attendance, item deferred.

**9.2.4 AAC Work Plan – Pat Gates**

The Chair proposed that the Committee put forward a few items that they could work towards positive outcomes on and proposed some ideas such as tracking audible visual announcements on the bus systems and ferries and taking an inventory of what is and what is not accessible.

Ms. Uteck left the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Committee members agreed that moving forward with a Work Plan was a great idea.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Gerry Post

**THAT the Committee engage in a facilitated workshop to develop a work plan.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee requested that Streets and Roads present to the Committee. It was also suggested that someone from that unit be on the Committee.

Ms. Collett and the Chair will look into options for facilitated workshops and report back to the Committee on this at the next meeting.

**9.2.5 Accessible Taxis – Pat Gates & Gerry Post**

Correspondence regarding Council Agenda Item 9.2.2: First Reading, Proposed By-Law T-1001 was before the Committee.

Mr. Post went through the recommendations that will be put forward to Council. There was a motion passed at Council to defer the decision because Council did not have all of the information needed to inform the debate around this issue.

Councillor Mason explained the issues surrounding senior citizens and others with different types of mobility issues do not want to step up into a van with a high step and also the issues around the business case. He believes that the Municipality needs to find ways to subsidize these vans because they are not feasible the way that things are right now, individuals will not drive accessible taxis if they cannot make any money.

The Chair expressed hope that Committee members would support the letter in front of them. She encouraged Committee members and individuals with disabilities to attend the meeting.

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday, March 21, 2016** 4:00-6:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, main floor, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support

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**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1. The article “Transportation committee rejects accessible taxi recommendation” was before the Committee.