



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
May 16, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Patricia Gates, Chair  
Krista Daley, Vice Chair  
Councillor Steve Craig  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Yvon Clement  
Meredith Fillmore  
Nancy Beaton  
Gerry Post  
Mikiko Terashima

**REGRETS:** Sue Uteck

**STAFF:** Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Government Relations & External Affairs  
Darren Young, Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Damion Stapledon, Community Recreation Coordinator  
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 Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:42 p.m.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

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

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

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Ms. Krista Daley, seconded by Ms. Mikiko Terashima,

**THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - NONE**

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

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence**

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Mr. Barry Blakeney to Mr. Glen Bannon and Mr. Ahmed Kidwai

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentations - None**

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

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1. STAFF**

**9.1.1 Darren Young, Project Manager, Operations Support**

Mr. Darren Young provided the Committee with the following updates:

- Northwood tender closing this week
- Work has begun at the Cole Harbour pool
- Accessibility updates that were in last year's budget are still moving forward

Mr. Young also informed the Committee that he spent the afternoon with transit professionals from across the country and received positive feedback on the accessibility initiatives that Halifax is taking.

The Chair requested an update on the Service Dog Park at the next meeting.

## **9.2. Committee Member Updates**

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

The last meeting was cancelled.

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

The last meeting was cancelled.

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

Ms. Daley reported that the review of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee is continuing to take place and they will be meeting next Thursday to receive the report.

### **9.2.4 Work Plan – Pat Gates**

The following was before the Committee:

- An email from Mr. Post to the Chair and Ms. Cathy Collett (Legislative Assistant)

The Chair explained that The Committee met with a facilitator for a Work Plan Workshop and that at today's meeting the Committee is going to be looking at the Terms of Reference and discussing proposed changes to the reporting structure of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

Ms. Daley reported to the Committee that a similar process took place in 2013 and no changes were made.

The Committee decided to go through the Terms of Reference point by point. Ms. Cathy Collett read the Terms of Reference.

The Committee debated what the correct place is for the AAC to report to. Suggestions included the Transportation Standing Committee, the Community Planning and Economic Development Committee, the Executive Standing Committee, and directly to Regional Council

Mr. Gerry Post was unable to attend the meeting; the following excerpt was read from his email to the Chair and L.A.:

“My main input on the TOR would have been on the reporting structure of the AAC, which should be to the HRM Executive Committee with the understanding that the Chair of that committee could defer things we bring forward to any relevant Standing Committee of Council. As I have stated on many occasions we are a 'horizontal' committee and our interests cut across the domain of almost every committee of Council. It's the reason the Inclusion/Diversity Office reports to the CAO.”

The Committee discussed whether or not the Transportation Standing Committee is the correct place to report to because all of the issues addressed by the Committee are not Transportation-specific. The Committee questioned if they could report to different committees instead of having one specific Standing Committee that everything is sent through. The Committee questioned what the rationale may be for reporting to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee. Committee members commented that it might be appropriate for the Committee to report directly to Regional Council, or at least have the ability to do so when required. Committee members noted that the Terms of Reference refer to the fact that “Members of the committee and Council shall come together on a

periodical basis to participate in a joint working session,” and that this has not happened and implies that there should be more direct communication between the Committee and Council.

The Committee discussed the fact that the AAC receives more support and attention from staff and administration than other committees. Staff receive information directly from the Committee meetings and follow up on them. Other committees have to go through different avenues to achieve this.

The Legislative Assistant read aloud the “Purpose” section from the Terms of Reference of the Executive, Transportation, and Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committees.

The Committee emphasized the cross-sectional nature of the matters addressed by the AAC which makes it difficult to choose one committee to report to. Mr. Rutt suggested that perhaps the Committee should report to the most appropriate standing committee which would be determined through the Clerk’s Office.

Mr. Young noted that the way that the Administrative Order is written each committee has to report directly to a specific Standing Committee.

Committee members noted that there are times when Advisory Committees make recommendations directly to Council and commented that it would be important for the Clerk’s Office to consider this.

MOVED BY Councillor Waye Mason, seconded by Ms. Krista Daley

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct the Office of the Municipal Clerk to propose changes to the reporting structure of Accessibility Advisory Committee with consideration of the discussion held at the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting on May 16, 2016.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Committee noted that there is no reference in the Terms of Reference to the Committee doing community consultation and that something should be added to acknowledge the work the Committee does around Town Hall Meetings. This could be added to section 2.3 and the wording of that section could be changed to make it more active (such as the wording of 2.7).

The interactions with Business Units could extend beyond what is stated in 2.3. The Committee’s role should be reflective of a more proactive approach, not just taking complaints.

The Committee suggested that wording be taken from the Active Transportation Committee terms of reference. The wording from ATAC 2.1 and 2.3 could replace current 2.1 and 2.3 of the AAC Terms of Reference. The Committee also suggested item 2.5 and 2.6 be combined.

The Committee suggested that the role of staff on the Committee be formally included in the Terms of Reference.

MOVED by Ms. Nancy Beaton, Seconded by Ms. Krista Daley

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee requests a Staff Report considering the suggestions to the Terms of Reference provided in the discussion of the matter at the May 16, 2016 Committee meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Yvon Clement commented that someone who is blind or visually impaired does not have the same access to knowledge of who is present and who is not present at a Committee meeting, and that taking Roll Call is an important measure for addressing this. He continued to state that it is a good thing that it is done at the AAC meetings, but that if it is not formalized, then a new Chair may not know to do so, or may not decide to do so. He explained that, in terms of accessibility, Roll Call should be a component of every HRM Committee meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Yvon Clement, seconded by Ms. Krista Daley

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that the agendas for the Standing and Advisory Committees formalize that Roll Call should be taken for all Committee members at each meeting.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support