



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
July 18, 2016**

PRESENT:

Councillor Steve Craig
Yvon Clement
Patricia Gates, Chair
Mikiko Terashima
Gerry Post
Sue Uteck

REGRETS:

Meredith Fillmore
Nancy Beaton
Councillor Wayne Mason
Krista Daley, Vice Chair

STAFF:

Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Government Relations & External Affairs
Heather MacKenzie, Manager, Diversity Services, Halifax Public Libraries
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 4:05 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2016

The Legislative Assistant noted that, after listening to the recording of the June 20, 2016 meeting, a slight rewording of the motion was required.

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

THAT the minutes of June 20, 2016, be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Ms. Sue Uteck, seconded by Mr. Yvon Clement,

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 – None

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 – Update

Mr. Young was not present at the meeting, The Legislative Assistant shared an update on the Ardmore Dog Park on his behalf:

- Another bench has been added inside the main exercise area
- Eastern Fence has been assigned to add additional fencing around the entrance area which will keep people from being able to reach over the fence and open the gate. They hope to be on site in the next two weeks to complete this work.

Mr. Rutt shared that the work being done at the Sackville Library is progressing well and the ramp is looking great.

9.2. Committee Member Updates

9.2.1 Active Transportation Committee – Councillor Mason

Councillor Mason was not present.

9.2.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Gerry Post

Mr. Post did not attend the last meeting. The Chair shared that she attended the meeting by phone. The Committee is looking to extend some of the taxi zones.

9.2.3 Work Plan – Pat Gates

A Goal Setting Template was before the Committee.

Mr. Post suggested that the work that the Committee is doing around the Work Plan be combined with the work that Mr. Rutt is doing around accessibility policy. Mr. Rutt offered to take the finalized goals, once established by the Committee, back to Ms. Tracy Jones-Grant for consideration. Mr. Rutt also noted goals should be assigned to the most relevant business unit.

Mr. Post and Ms. Terashima volunteered to populate the Goal Setting Template and share the populated template at the next Committee meeting for discussion. Once this process is completed the Committee will create a Work Plan and submit it to Council.

The Committee agreed that they would like to further discuss their goals before engaging Ms. Marilyn Smith again.

9.2.4 Town Hall Discussion

The Committee discussed the idea of presenting the completed Goal Template at the Town Hall Meeting to receive feedback from the community before the Work Plan is drafted and submitted to Council. It was agreed that this would be a good opportunity to vet the Committee's goals.

Ms. Collett is looking into the availability of the Atrium at Citadel High School on November 14th or 21st from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

The Committee identified the need for an ASL interpreter, sighted guides and the CART System to be available at the Town Hall.

Pamela Coulter from the Aphasia Association offered to assist the Committee in creating simplified or pictorial materials to better accommodate individuals with Aphasia.

Mr. Delehanty of Accessible Media Inc., offered to assist in supplying audio materials in advance of the meeting if someone was interested in listening to voiced materials.

Ms. Collett offered to follow up with Mr. Delehanty and Ms. Pamela Coulter. The Chair requested that all accessible accommodations be listed on the event poster.

The Committee asked that staff who have spoken at the Town Hall in the past look over the questions that have been asked over the past three years and come to the meeting prepared to discuss what has been done and anything that has not happened. The Committee also requested that Diversity Inclusion,

Public Libraries and Police Services be added to the panel along with staff from any business units related to the goals.

9.2.5 Other Business

Mr. Delehanty from Accessible Media Inc. invited the Committee to join a workshop being hosted by TV producer Ron Rickford on Tuesday July 26th at 10AM and 2PM. The workshop will be taking place at the Halifax Central Library in room 301. The workshop will discuss Described Video and Integrated Video Description.

Mr. Clement mentioned that he is attempting to show described video at Alderney Landing. Mr. Delehanty offered to assist Mr. Clement in any way he can.

Councillor Craig requested that Ms. Collett share the information about the workshop with the Communications Department at HRM.

10. ADDED ITEMS

Mr. Post shared that Common Roots Urban Farm is developing an accessible garden. He noted that Committee members are welcome to help in the creation of this accessible scented and tactile garden. The planning committee is currently seeking an individual who is blind to help in the design of the garden.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Jenny Benson
Legislative Support