

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

October 17, 2011

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

REGRETS: David MacLean

STAFF: Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Human Resources  
Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police  
Darren Young, Project Manager, Planning & Infrastructure  
Jenny Benson, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Wile, seconded by Mary Newcombe, that the minutes of September 19, 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 Paving on Quinpool Road
- 8.2 Disability Training

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Educational Awareness – Troy Nauffts (from July 18/11 meeting)**

Mr. Nauffts updated the Committee on the current status of his project. At this time he is seeking a host to provide the funding required to proceed with his pilot project and is also in the process of identifying a trail with potential for the pilot project. Councillor Wile suggested that the Chain of Lakes Trail as a good possibility.

Mr. Aird will share contact information with Mr. Nauffts for the Ecology Action Centre as a possible host.

**4.1.1 HRM Website Accessibility**

An extract of the December 14, 2009 minutes was before the Committee.

The Committee would like the Web Master to come in and speak to the Committee at the November meeting to provide an update.

**4.1.2 Public Service Announcements/Awareness Campaign**

In July, the Committee discussed inviting staff from Communications to discuss their communications strategy. Mr. Nauffts is interested in how the public service announcements could be utilized to inform disabled persons of changes in public transit

routes (e.g. Lower Water becoming a one way street on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>). The Committee would also like to discuss using public service announcements to raise awareness about persons with disabilities.

**4.2 Bus Stop Annunciation – Laughlin Rutt (deferred from Sept. 19/11 meeting)**

A memo from Laughlin Rutt, HRM Diversity Consultant, dated August 18, 2011 was before the Committee.

The Committee had a lengthily discussion around this issue and the decisions that were made around it in Ontario in July, 2007. The Committee has brought up the need for a bus stop annunciation system on numerous occasions and there is a belief that it should be a priority to put audio and visual annunciation into HRM's buses and ferries. The next step is for Mr. Rutt's report to be sent to the Transportation Standing Committee. From there the Committee hopes that it will go to Council.

**MOVED by Mr. Nauffts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee support and endorse moving forward with – and having a timeline set for – visual and audio announce system installment for Metro Transit buses and ferries. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4.3 Crosswalk & Flashing Pedestrian Lights at Barrington & Young Streets – Councillor Blumenthal (deferred from Sept. 19/11 meeting)**

Correspondence was circulated to the Committee from Dawn MacFarlane, Executive Director of Wee Care Developmental Centre regarding the requirement of a crosswalk at the corner of Young and Barrington Streets and the requirement of a flashing pedestrian light at the corner of Young and Veith Streets dated October 17, 2011.

**MOVED by Ms. Newcombe, seconded by Mr. Nauffts, that the Accessibility Committee supports this work being done expediently. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. NEW BUSINESS -- None**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence – None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentations**

### **6.3.1 Accessible Recreation Services: Skating Oval & Long-term accessible recreation plans - Karen MacTavish & John Henry – Community Recreation Services**

Ms. MacTavish and Mr. Henry began their presentation by clarifying the timeline of the various phases of construction, informing the Committee that in phase one this year they will be putting down the concrete slab and it will not be until next year that they begin to build amenities (pavilion for skate rentals, helmet hut, food pavilion, etc.).

With respect to programming for persons with disabilities, Ms. MacTavish noted that wheelchairs and sledges will be allowed on the ice this year as they were last year. More sledges were recently purchased for the BMO Centre which will be shared in partnership with the oval. Community Recreation Services is also piecing together a “Learn to Sledge” program for oval users. Mr. Henry has been working to ensure that the oval is accessible and that there is enough space and time for individuals who require special assistance.

Ms. MacTavish encouraged Committee Members to attend the Oval public meeting on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> to provide feedback on accessible features for the more permanent structures that will be constructed in phase two.

There are two accessibility changes that will likely happen this year - one is having an accessible transit stop by the oval and the other is marking accessible parking spots close to the entrance. Changing the organization of the trailers to make them more accessible for this year is also being investigated.

Mr. Nauffts mentioned the need for tactile lettering for signage at the oval. He also suggested that the building checklist be sent to Ms. MacTavish to be used as a guideline for accessibility features.

The Committee requested that Ms. Weagle contact Mr. Henry to provide the names and contact information for the members of a relevant sub-committee.

Councilor Wile departed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### **6.3.2 Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee – Pat Meagher, Accessible Transit Manager & Todd Hacquoil, Vice-Chair, ATAC**

An email from Todd Hacquoil, Vice Chair of the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee dated September 2, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Meagher provided the Committee with an overview of current services and the changes that Access-A-Bus is making to provide a more user-friendly service to their clients. One of the major changes in service is allowing individuals to book up to 48 hour in advance of their pickup time, previously it was seven days. They have also taken on a program to limit the use of each vehicle per day and will be turning over the entire

fleet over the next five years, reducing service interruption due to mechanical difficulties. The no show/cancellation policy that is used by Access-A-Bus is being revised in order to tighten up their numbers while improving communication. It should be noted that personal care attendants are now able to ride for free.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 Update on assessment of HRM owned/operated buildings**

#### **7.1.1 Staff Update**

Mr. Young informed the Committee that Alderney Landing was completed today and that the door operators were able to complete the job in the provided timeline. The Eastern Shore Community Centre washroom door has been installed and in North Woodside the accessible washroom near the gymnasium has been started and should be completed by the November meeting.

- **Halifax Forum**

The door has been taken off of the men's washroom apparently due to an odor issue.

- **Metro Centre**

There was a report that a gentleman got stuck in one of the washrooms. Mr. Young assessed the washrooms and believes that the gentleman was most likely unable to exit the stall due to a lineup in the washroom. The Chair will confirm whether or not this was the issue.

- **Budget update**

The Accessibility Committee has an available balance of approx. \$200,000. The \$225,000 which was allocated for funding door operators has already been removed. The remaining funding will go towards the priority list previously identified by the Committee and then be re-assessed.

#### **7.1.2 Committee Member Update**

The Chair informed the Committee that there will no longer be building inspections unless there is a complaint.

Mr. Nauffts requested that an examination of tactile sign samples be added to the November agenda.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Issue re: Road Paving on Quinpool Road**

An email from Councilor Watts to the Chair regarding road paving on Quinpool Road dated October 14, 2011 was circulated to the Committee for their review.

## **8.2 Disability Training**

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding disability training for the Committee. It was requested that Mr. Rutt provide disability training as he has experience and expertise in this regard, and other members suggested that they would like to present to the Committee as well. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**MOVED by Mr. Aird, seconded by Ms. Newcombe, that the Accessibility Committee accommodate Ms. Cindy Bray by investigating and providing hearing impaired technology during committee meetings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 21, 2011**

Councillor Blumenthal would like to add the Needham Centre to the agenda for next month.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support