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Item No. 7.2
Accessibility Advisory Committee
May 25, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Accessibility Advisory Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Peter Stickings Acting, Director, Operations Support

DATE: May 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Corporate Facility Design & Construction Progress Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason, seconded by Councillor Steve Craig, that the Accessibility Advisory Committee request that staff prepare a report with an update of projects and funds spent in the 2014/15 fiscal year from the "Accessibility – HRM Facilities" account, and any planned projects from this account for the 2015/16 fiscal year. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee sets out the objectives of the Committee, including:

1.1 To facilitate the full participation of all citizens with disabilities in civic and community affairs by ensuring that policies, programs and services do not impose barriers to such participation.

1.3 To work towards the elimination of physical and attitudinal barriers facing persons with disabilities by advising Halifax Regional Council, through the Transportation Standing Committee, on issues and concerns raised by citizens.

BACKGROUND

Regional Council approved funding in the 2008/09 Project Budget process for accessibility: CBX01035 Accessibility – HRM Facilities project account was created. During the first few years, approximately \$90K of the \$400K available funding was expended. In 2010, Facility Development (now Corporate Facility Design & Construction) dedicated a staff member to be accountable for the delivery of the funding and to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) as a staff liaison to the Committee. This was an opportunity to work with the Committee to help prioritize funds. Members of the AAC have completed a number of audits on existing HRM facilities, which have been used by staff to prioritize the spending of these funds. Since joining the AAC in 2010, Corporate Facility Design & Construction staff have spent more than \$1.2M from these project accounts. Over 30 different facilities have been upgraded with door operators, washroom upgrades, pool lifts and new elevators.

DISCUSSION

In 2012, Corporate Facility Design & Construction, in consultation with the AAC, adopted CSA Standard B651-12 Accessible Design for the Built Environment, developed by the Canada Standards Association (CSA), as a benchmark to guide the requests of the AAC and all new construction. The objective of this standard is to provide “technical requirements on how to make buildings and the exterior built environment accessible and safely usable by persons with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.” The addition of this standard to our design process ensures HRM’s new facilities meet the highest standard for accessibility, improving the independence and inclusion of HRM residents.

A Standing Offer for door operators has been in place for three (3) years, with the contract being renewed in 2014 for an additional three years.

Additional accessibility upgrades have been completed with HRM by Facility Services, Halifax Transit and Transportation and Public Works, but were not funded out of these accounts.

Account History: (CBX01035 (2008/09) & CBX01154 (2009/15); Accessibility – HRM Facilities):

Budget Year	Funding	Expenditures
2008/09	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 53,859.27
2009/10	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 40,837.51
2010/11	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 79,786.84
2011/12	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 145,545.88
2012/13	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 137,421.44
2013/14	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 523,357.75
2014/15	\$ 525,000.00	\$ 284,353.11
2015/16	\$ 945,000.00	

Total: \$1,265,161.80

Work completed under the above funding includes:

- 120 door operators have been installed at over 30 different HRM facilities;
- Accessible pool lifts at 5 HRM pools (Bedford Outdoor Pool, Needham Centre, Dartmouth Sportsplex, Captain William Spry Centre and Sackville Sports Stadium);
- Accessibility Washroom upgrades at the North Woodside Community Centre, Eastern Shore Community Centre, Centennial Arena and the Mooseland Community Hall;
- Accessibility upgrades at the Needham Centre including a platform lift from the first floor to the pool deck;
- Accessible components added to over 15 parks and school playgrounds such as swings and wheelchair-friendly surface material;
- Accessible features at the new Beach Washroom facilities at Chocolate Lake and Albro Lake;
- New elevator for City Hall; and
- Tactile Warning Surface Indicators (TWSI) for pedestrian crossings at the Bridge Terminal, Highfield Terminal and the Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre.

Future:

The 2015/16 Work Plan includes planned project expenditures of over \$900,000. The projects will include the majority of the work identified in the 2014 Accessibility Audit on 34 recreational facilities, including but not limited to:

- Front entrance upgrades;
- Upgraded washroom facilities;
- Interior upgrades;
- Braille and tactile signage;

- Ramps;
- Lifts; and
- Door operators.

In addition, work will continue in order to complete any outstanding items in various buildings throughout HRM, such as washroom layouts (lever taps, slanted mirrors, wheelchair accessible counter tops and accessories), the replacement of audible fire alarms with audible strobe fire alarms at various locations, and items identified through the AAC during their site audits.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been included in the Approved 2015-16 Project Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Original signed

Report Approved by: Terry Gallagher, Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction (476-4067)
