

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**June 11, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair  
Mr. Robert Richards  
Ms. Lisa Dahr  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Ms. Cathy Towers  
Mr. Jamie Bolduc  
Mr. Derek Mathers

REGRETS: Mr. Gary Russell  
Mr. Richard McNeil  
Mr. Earl Brown

STAFF: Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Services  
Mr. Mark Calvi, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 14, 2009 .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	
5.1	By-Law T-108 Zone Regulations - Zone Section #46 and By-Law t-138 An Amendment to By-Law T-108 (deferred from May 14, 2009) .....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	
6.1	Airporter Letter of Appeal and Response from Mayor Kelly .....	3
6.2	Presentation	
6.2.1	Halifax Taxi Owners Association (V. Ostercevic) .....	3
7.	REPORTS	
7.1	County Taxis working in the City core (R. Richards) .....	4
7.2	Review of Mandate .....	5
8.	ADDED ITEMS .....	6
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - July 9, 2009 .....	6
10.	ADJOURNMENT .....	6

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - May 14, 2009**

**MOVED BY Jamie Bolduc, seconded by Lisa Dahr, that the minutes of May 14, 2009 be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

ADDITIONS:

7.3 Correspondence from the Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association

**MOVED BY Cathy Towers, seconded by Derek Mathers, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 By-Law T-108 Zone Regulations - Zone Section #46 and By-Law t-138 An Amendment to By-Law T-108 (deferred from May 14, 2009)**

Information item brought forward.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Airporter Letter of Appeal and Response from Mayor Kelly**

The Airporter Transportation Service has brought forward concerns to the Mayor's office, HRM Staff and Council, that there have been issues with taxi drivers misrepresenting themselves as Airporter company representatives and taking clients.

Councillor Adams addressed this issue initially, noting that he has received a number of phone calls from those concerned. In speaking with Mr. Moore, HRM, it was determined that this was not in fact a by law issue.

Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi & Limousine Services, echoed this opinion and stated that based on background information and research done by his office, this is not a taxi by law issue.

It was noted that this in fact is a civil issue.

Ms. Lisa Dahr commented that although this is not a taxi by law issue, the Committee should assist the parties concerned in finding appropriate avenues for resolution.

Ms. Cathy Towers also noted that the Committee mandate does not apply to this issue.

Mr. Robert Richards suggested that the Public Utility Review Board may be an appropriate direction for parties to take this matter.

In summary, Councillor Adams suggested an appropriate response would reflect that although this is not an issue over which the Taxi Commission or By Law Enforcement has any influence, the Committee recommends follow up with the Utility Review Board or independent legal counsel.

**MOVED BY Robert Richards, seconded by Lisa Dahr, that upon any further correspondence from concerned parties in relation to the Airporter Transportation Service and the false representation by other drivers, the parties be advised that the Committee states that this is not an issue over which the Taxi Commission or By Law Enforcement has any influence, and recommends the appropriate course of action would be to follow up with the Utility Review Board or obtain independent legal counsel to resolve this issue. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6.2 Presentation**

### **6.2.1 Halifax Taxi Owners Association (V. Ostercevic)**

Mr. Vladimir Ostercevic, recognized agent of the Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association, gave a brief introduction for Mr. Douglas Brine, Vice President of Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association, who presented a summary of concerns to the Committee. Handouts were distributed.

The main focus of the presentation was to address two vital topics with major impact on the taxi and limousine industry - Administrative Order 38 revision to ensure the Committee Mandate and Membership employs equal representation for all stakeholders; By-Law T-138 amendment to By-Law T-108, zoning issues in relation to deadheading, zone regulations and open zones during late night, early morning weekend hours.

**MOVED BY Robert Richards, seconded by Jamie Bolduc, that a representative of the Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association be appointed to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee, and that this position be created by forwarding a request for change in composition of said Committee to the Membership Selection Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 County Taxis working in the city core (R. Richards)**

Taxi drivers in the Halifax city core have expressed concern in relation to county taxis working outside regular hours and taking calls from the Halifax office. Drivers and Taxi Association members within the city view this as a conflict with their livelihood. Mr. Richards stated that Yellow Cab has been asked to respond to this conflict of interest.

In response Mr. Kevin Hindle stated that there are no contradictions to any by law and nothing illegal has taken place. Drivers can operate with any broker service, whether Halifax, Dartmouth, or county; the decision is between individual owner operators and brokers. As long as drivers are picking up and leaving the zones appropriately, there is no restriction between where a driver holds their license and the broker service with which they operate. Violations occur when taxis are picking up and staying in a zone in which they are required to leave. Recently enforcement issues have been coming forward, violations have been confirmed on site, and complaints are being investigated. Taxis are picking up and staying in zones and dropping off in zones for which they are not licensed. Mr. Hindle stated that the number of complaints and tickets given can be disclosed, but individuals cannot be identified.

Mr. Richards advised the Committee that he would be bringing forward a Notice of Motion stating that no company should be allowed to engage by hiring cars outside the zone to work out of their office.

Councillor Adams reiterated that current practice is not contrary to the by law.

Mr. Derek Mathers, Broker, Yellow Cab, acknowledged that zoning violations are a widespread issue throughout the industry. He further commented that he was not in favour of open zones and saw no reason to do away with zoning, and that customers are better served by the current zoning structure which ensures licensed taxis for specific zones.

### **7.2 Review of Mandate**

Mr. Jamie Bolduc stressed that the focus of the Committee should be on the actual mandate, to work with all stakeholders and encourage the industry to improve the level of service for all citizens, businesses and visitors to HRM. The structure is good, but a more results oriented approach is needed, along with greater input from all meeting attendees.

Councillor Adams suggested putting a component aside for presentations from drivers, audience members and various stakeholders.

Ms. Lisa Dahr agreed that input from all stakeholders is important and that appropriate liaisons be identified to allow information to be addressed in an organized and effective manner. She also stressed the importance of reviewing the Committee mandate and

understanding its broad scope as it relates to all aspects of the industry. Ms. Dahr called on Committee members to provide feedback on how the Committee might make improvements in the industry through enhanced communication, strengthened business skills of drivers and better public relations.

Mr. Richards commented that the zoning problem is a matter of livelihood and is therefore currently one of the most crucial issues of the mandate.

Committee members held a 'brainstorming' session with the Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia to review the Committee mandate in an effort to find ways to continually improve service and recognition for the Taxi and Limousine industry. The mandate of the Committee and input from stakeholders are central in the industry's professional development. Information from this session will be distributed at the next meeting.

Mr. Ostercevic commented that in order to make any decisions or progress in the industry through the Committee, there must be proper membership representation within the Committee that would allow input from all companies.

Audience members expressed concern for various issues including driver safety, licensing and industry overcrowding, enforcement of by laws, and general working condition within the industry. Brian Herman, Operations Manager Casino Taxi, made a request to circulate documents. He handed out a letter to the Committee regarding the HRM Taxi Zone Structure, and it was agreed that he would present and discuss the information contained therein at the next meeting.

### **7.3 Correspondence from the Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association**

Handouts were distributed by Mr. Brine, Vice President of Halifax Taxi Driver's Owner's Association, who presented a summary of concerns to the Committee under item 6.2.

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting will be held on July 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Captain William Spry Centre. Mr. Richards brought forward a Notice of Motion for the next meeting, stating that no company should be allowed to engage by hiring cars outside the zone to work out of their office.

### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Mark Calvi  
Legislative Assistant