

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**January 10, 2008**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair  
Mr. Tim Hosford  
Ms. Joanne Coffey  
Mr. Earl Brown  
Ms. Lisa Dahr  
Mr. Robert Richards  
Mr. Jamie Bolduc  
Mr. Derek Mathers  
Mr. Gary Russell
- REGRETS:** Ms. Cathy Towers  
Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine  
Services  
Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Solicitor
- STAFF:** Ms. Barbara Coleman, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	
6.1.1	Correspondence .....	3
	Email from David Clark (Lord Nelson Hotel) Dated December 12, 2007 re the Ali Saga .....	3
6.1.2	Proposal for Environmental-improvements to the HRM Taxi & Limo Operations as Presented to HRM Appeal Board Dec 17, 2007 by Dan Robitaille (Bob's Taxi) .....	3
6.2	Petitions .....	3
6.3	Delegations .....	3
7.	REPORTS .....	4
8.	ADDED ITEMS	
8.1	Illumination of Lights .....	4
9.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING .....	5
10.	ADJOURNMENT .....	5

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m in the Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Captain William Spry Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 8, 2007**

**MOVED BY Mr. Hosford, seconded by Mr. Mathers that the minutes of November 8, 2007, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**Addition: 8.1 ILLUMINATION OF TAXI LIGHTS**

**MOVED BY Mr. Mathers, seconded by Mr. Bolduc that the agenda, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 EMAIL FROM DAVID CLARK (LORD NELSON HOTEL) DATED DECEMBER 12, 2007 RE THE ALI SAGA**

Driver has been brought in. Mr. Bolduc gave a brief update. Further discussion will be deferred to the next meeting.

**6.1.2 PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL-IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HRM TAXI & LIMO OPERATIONS AS PRESENTED TO HRM APPEAL BOARD DEC 17, 2007 BY DAN ROBITAILLE (BOB'S TAXI)**

**Moved by Mr. Hosford, seconded by Mr. Mathers that this proposal be given to Taxi Staff to complete a report on this issue.**

**6.2 PETITIONS - NONE**

**6.3 DELEGATIONS - NONE**

**7. REPORTS - None**

**8. ADDED ITEMS -**

**8.1 ILLUMINATION OF TAXI LIGHTS**

Taxi lights are often not lit due to a broken wire or a burnt out light bulb. To save on costs it was suggested that once a taxi has a fare on board, then the light could be turned off to save on costs of repairs.

**Prior to adjourning the meeting the Committee agreed to open the floor to a Question and Answer period.**

Highlights of this period are as follows:

- C Drivers are afraid for the security of their livelihood
- C Brokers are concerned that they will lose their best drivers
- C Grocery calls are difficult and time consuming. People expect the drivers to bring groceries to the door.
- C People calling for taxis are calling two or three taxis at a time and taking which ever comes first. Driver could be traveling a long distance only to find out the passenger is no longer waiting.
- C Rather than removing the zones completely, allow drivers to come to the busier zones on a "as needed" basis. For instance, Sackville is slow early morning hours of 2 or 3 a.m. whereas downtown Halifax is extremely busy. Allow the Sackville drivers to come in and service downtown Halifax.
- C The 30-day period to get a car on the road once given a roof light presents challenges to the drivers.
- C It was questioned as to whether or not there would be any government subsidy for loss wages such as farmers get when their crop fails.
- C Fares for taxis and limousines going to the airport should be looked at. Customer's perception that they are getting better for the same price discourages the customer from taking taxis.
- C Drivers without "Hotel Standards" feel that they are being discriminated against when they are not needed but when hotels need extra cars for a large function they are being called upon to drive. Drivers say either they are either "good enough or they are not"

- C Drivers feel that it is not unrealistic to have customers wait for a cab during inclement weather or peak periods or, i.e., late Friday and Saturday nights, Christmas time, etc.
- C Drivers are concerned over the "bidding" on the roof lights.
- C Drivers feel that if you do not use your roof light then you should lose your roof light.
- C Dispatch also plays part in the delay of getting a taxi, calls are not being answered and the drivers are wearing the brunt of it
- C The capability of being able to decline a call also adds to the problem of not being able to get a cab.
- C Drivers wanted to know that if they opened up the zones would they have to write the test for that area in order to drive.

**Moved by Mr. Bolduc, seconded by Mr. Hosford that Regional Council postpone the public hearing for the deregulation of the industry (Motion of January 8, 2008) to allow for a public meeting of drivers, brokers, and other stakeholders so as to provide alternative solutions and allow for feedback to Council.**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 14, 2008.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Barbara Coleman  
Legislative Assistant