



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 22, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Vicky Levack, Chair  
Andrew Taylor, Vice-Chair  
Elizabeth Doull  
Samantha Horne  
Leslie Gates  
Nicole MacDonald  
Jacki Purcell  
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Paul Russell

**REGRETS:** Aja Joshi

**STAFF:** Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO  
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO  
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Mairead Barry, Halifax Public Libraries  
Pat McGrath, Manager of Inclusion and Aquatics  
Dave Nantau, Halifax Transit  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant  
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. adjourned at 5:59 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 22, 2021**

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Elizabeth Doull.

**THAT the minutes of February 22, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the agenda item 9.1.4 Presentation on Accessibility Advisory Committee - Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO be dealt with prior to agenda item 4.**

**MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Leslie Gates

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

**AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Councillor Deagle Gammon indicated that information on Call for Proposals for Advancing Accessibility Standards Research was shared with a few universities across Halifax Regional Municipality as a follow up to February 2021 meeting.

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATION**

**7.1 Correspondence – None.**

**7.2 Petitions – None.**

**7.3 Presentations**

**7.3.1 Improving Accessibility at Counter Service Areas for People Living and Working with Hearing Loss – Janine Verge and Duncan Floyd**

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation titled "*Improving Accessibility at Counter Service Areas for People Living and Working with Hearing Loss*" dated March 22, 2021.
- A handout titled "*Seven Steps for Creating an Accessibility Project to Reduce Barriers for People who are Hard of Hearing*"

Dr. Janine Verge and Duncan Floyd from Accessible Hearing Solutions Inc. delivered a presentation to the Committee. Topics covered included:

- Statistics and myths about hearing loss
- Barriers at Counter Service for people living or working with hearing loss.
- The benefits of Speech Transfer Systems

Dr. Janine Verge responded to questions and comments regarding definitions of terms used, the importance of speech reading in public settings, and the difficulties that arise with masks being used throughout the pandemic.

Dr. Janine Verge answered questions from members of the Committee regarding a tool called an Ubi Duo. Darren Young, Senior Manager, Corporate Facility Design and Construction, highlighted there is a budget ask for Ubi Duos to be introduced in Municipally owned buildings such as libraries and community centres. Darren highlighted that he makes verbal updates to the Committee once a month and that he would be willing to provide an update on this topic to this next month.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 2021 Work Plan**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated March 8, 2021 with attached minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant spoke to the memorandum and outlined that this portion of the meeting can be used to discuss the creation of the workplan for the year.

The committee discussed combining items that had been previously identified as themes for the workplan, including an asset assessment in the framework for the work plan, and asked questions to staff about the status of the HRM's accessibility strategy.

The committee decided upon including three themes in the work plan:

- Accessibility of sidewalks
- Educating the community on disability and accessibility
- The Annual Town Hall

Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Corporate & Customer Services highlighted that Transportation and Public Works maintains an audit of sidewalks and crosswalks in the HRM, which includes 1,000 kilometers of sidewalk and 2,500 crosswalks.

The Committee will continue discussion on the Work Plan in the next meeting.

#### **9.1.2 Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Corporate & Customer Services – Update**

Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Corporate & Customer Services spoke to progress on built environment audits, the addition of an accessible washroom in Dartmouth North, and timelines associated for these projects.

#### **9.1.3 Annual Town Hall**

Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant highlighted that this agenda item was discussed during the work plan session and that it can be revisited at a future meeting.

**9.1.4 Presentation on Accessibility Advisory Committee - Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO**

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO spoke to the role of the committee and how its work informs and advises on the work of Regional Council.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**9.2.1 On Demand Private Accessible Transportation Service Contract Status**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff information report titled, "*On Demand Private Accessible Transportation Service Contract Report*" dated January 21, 2021.

Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, circulated the report to the committee at the direction of the Chair.

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 19, 2021**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Annie Sherry  
Legislative Assistant