



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
January 15, 2018**

PRESENT: Patricia Gates, Chair
Ryan Delehanty, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Johanna Stork
Julia Bremner
Kristine Webber
Jillian Banfield

REGRETS: Mikiko Terashima
Zainab Almukhtar

STAFF: Heather MacKenzie, Manager, Diversity Services, Halifax Public Libraries
Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern
Noreen Guptill, Inclusion & Accessibility Specialist, Parks & Recreation
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Tracey Jones-Grant, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Alicia Wall, Legislative Support

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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. the Committee adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

- **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Ryan Delehanty

THAT Patricia Gates be nominated as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

Patricia Gates accepted the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Patricia Gates was declared Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Johanna Stork

THAT Ryan Delehanty be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

Ryan Delehanty accepted the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Ryan Delehanty was declared Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2017

MOVED by Kristine Webber, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the minutes of November 20, 2017 be approved as amended.

It was noted that Gerry Post should be spelled with a G rather than a J.

The Chair wanted it noted that they were interviewed for the review Sally Christie spoke about along with Johanna Stork and Laughie Rutt.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Johanna Stork

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM Member Orientation

The Chair invited Liam MacSween to present the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM Member Orientation.

Liam MacSween indicated that the Committee's Terms of Reference have recently been amended to show the Committee now advises the Executive Standing Committee as opposed to the Transportation Standing Committee.

Members questioned requirements for petitions and the Legislative Assistant responded.

9.1.2 Update on Community Engagement

The Chair invited Tracey Jones-Grant to take the floor.

Tracey Jones-Grant advised there will be 13 community engagement sessions beginning on February 15, 2018. They indicated the purpose of the sessions is to identify accessibility needs and to help the Municipality develop corporate accessibility framework. Jones-Grant advised that a survey will be available online for those who are unable to attend the sessions.

Jones-Grant indicated they can only advise Business Units with respect to accessibility and does not have the authority to enforce changes.

Kayla Douglas read a list of locations for the community engagement sessions as they are being held throughout the City to accommodate as many people as possible.

9.1.3 Facility Accessibility Update

The Chair invited Darren Young to take the floor.

Darren Young provided the following updates:

- The Pavilion ramp has been completed and slip strips are going to be installed
- The Findlay Centre work is out to Tender
- The Administrative Order for Universal Access is being worked on
- The Cole Harbour Turf universal washrooms under construction
- Money has been set aside for updates to the Library as per the audit

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Planning for 2018 Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility

The Chair turned the meeting over to Liam MacSween.

The Legislative Assistant inquired as whether or not members feel May would be a good month for the 2018 Town Hall meeting and provided some possible dates. They further suggested using O'Regan Hall as the venue.

MacSween explained the Town Hall is an opportunity for the Committee to gain public consultation on areas of HRM where accessibility is being worked on. It also gives representatives from the Business Units a chance to provide an update as to what they have been doing to improve accessibility and gain feedback from the Committee at large.

The Chair would like an opportunity to speak at the Town Hall to reiterate the reasons why it is being held and the importance of respectfully speaking and listening, as these meetings can become unruly at times.

MacSween indicated there will be a staff panel with each person giving about a 15-20 minutes presentation than the public can provide their commentary open mic style.

Members would like to see a skit or some sort of entertainment to help set the tone.

Members agreed on May 29, 2018 as the tentative date.

Darren Young confirmed last year's Town Hall was at Citadel and feels it should be held at a different location. Committee members suggested Alderney Landing.

9.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.3.1 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group

The Chair invited Johanna Stork to take the floor.

Johanna Stork advised a Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group meeting was held on November 27, 2017 and that effective February, 2018, the new taxi driver training will be done by TIANS rather than the City. They further indicated a working group has been set up and met on December 7, 2017. The group would like to put out written information for the drivers and ideally have a training video available in about a years' time.

Stork spoke to some of the topics they would like to have addressed in the training of new taxi drivers.

It was mentioned that Casino Taxi has a training video for their drivers and that the video would be a useful tool.

There was some discussion regarding the difference between guide dogs and service dogs, and whether or not a taxi driver can refuse a passenger with a guide dog.

The Chair responded by saying it was her understanding that the taxi driver needs to have a doctor's note on file with the employer stating they are allergic to dogs in order to refuse a passenger.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 26, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support