



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
February 27, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Patricia Gates  
Gerry Post  
Sue Uteck  
Mikiko Terashima  
Kristine Webber  
Johanna Stork  
Zainib Almkhtar  
Ryan Delehanty  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn  
Councillor Waye Mason

**REGRETS:**

**STAFF:** Laughlin Rutt, Diversity Consultant, Government Relations & External Affairs  
Darren Young, Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Glen Bannon, Manager of Transit Operations, Halifax Transit  
Tracy Jones-Grant, Manager of Diversity & Inclusion, Government Relations & External Affairs  
Heather Mackenzie, Diversity & Accessibility Manager, Halifax Public Libraries  
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant  
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/170227aac-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. Roll call was taken.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/COMMITTEE ORIENTATION**

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, introduced new members and gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed HRM's guidelines for the effective running of committees.

Laughie Rutt, Diversity Consultant, shared a handout with the committee on meeting etiquette focusing on best practices to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM

MOVED by Gerry Post, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

**THAT Patricia Gates be nominated Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.**

Patricia Gates accepted the nomination.

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Chair Patricia Gates called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

MOVED by Councillor Waye Mason, seconded by Sue Utek

**THAT Gerry Post be nominated Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.**

Gerry Post accepted the nomination.

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Chair Patricia Gates called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Gerry Post was declared Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2017**

MOVED by Gerry Post, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

**THAT the minutes of January 16, 2017 be approved as presented.**

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Sue Utek, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

**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 INTEREST - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

6.1.1 Approval of proposed 2017 meeting schedule

The date of the May meeting was changed to accommodate the Victoria Day weekend.

MOVED by Councillor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Ryan Delehanty

**THAT the meeting schedule be approved as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations – None

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

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1. STAFF**

**9.1.1 Update – Report Request on Committee Terms of Reference – Tracy Jones-Grant, Manager of Diversity & Inclusion, Government Relations & External Affairs**

Tracy Jones-Grant and Liam MacSween have reviewed the committee's feedback and are recommending to the Transportation Standing Committee that the Accessibility Advisory Committee report to the Executive Standing Committee moving forward. The Executive Standing Committee is a governance committee which will address present concerns, allowing opportunities for more community engagement such as consultations and town halls.

They have also tidied up the terms of reference and looked to see that this committee is aligned with provincial committee structure and legislation which is in the process of being finalized.

Staff reviewed the process for approval and will be presenting this request to the Transportation Standing Committee on April 27, 2017. Liam MacSween will provide committee members with the meeting details and a copy of the report.

The committee discussed the pending Provincial legislation and opportunities for this group to interpret and apply it here.

**9.1.2 Update- Darren Young, Project Manager, Operations Support**

Darren Young noted that work is being done to retrofit the Centennial Pool bulkhead.

There are 3 other projects of note for 2017: the Dartmouth Four Pad Arena, the Dartmouth Sportsplex and the Halifax Ferry Terminal.

The Halifax Ferry Terminal project will be mainly a re-fresh including brighter lighting. The second phase of this project will include washroom upgrades making the entrances barrier free providing greater accessibility.

**9.1.3 Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist, Parks and Recreation**

There were no updates provided from Parks and Recreation staff for the February 27 2017 meeting.

**9.1.4 Update- Heather MacKenzie, Diversity and Accessibility Manager, Halifax Public Libraries**

Heather MacKenzie highlighted some of the recent renovations at the Musquodoboit Harbour Library: entrances are fully accessible, there is a gender-neutral washroom and the reception desk has been designed with lower service area height at one end.

At the Central Library, they have been looking at the positioning of the soap dispensers and changing them where necessary. There are two measurements to consider; 39" from the floor and a reach distance of 20" from a seated person.

Heather MacKenzie asked for clarification about the issue with the Plexiglas gates in order to take recommendations back to her team. The committee indicated that the white decals are not working, suggesting there may not be enough or that they are at the wrong height.

Tracy Jones-Grant asked if the Musquodoboit Harbour Library had assisted listening designed in their meeting spaces. It was confirmed that they did and Darren Young stated that this is planned for all HRM libraries.

**9.2. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

**9.2.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Councillor Waye Mason**

Councillor Waye Mason is no longer on this committee. It was suggested that a replacement is held off until any changes are made to this committee's reporting structure. Liam MacSween will update the committee in the interim.

**9.2.2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Gerry Post**

Their last meeting was cancelled due to weather.

There are 31 accessible taxis in HRM, 3% of the total.

Gerry Post asked if there is an opportunity to only issue new licenses to vehicles which are accessible.

The group discussed how Halifax Transit and taxis could work together to address this issue. Glen Bannon said that a strategic review of accessibility was happening; in particular, how existing resources and supply schedules could be used more efficiently.

The goal is to have a report to the Transportation Standing Committee by May. The committee acknowledged that the existing organization of this industry in Halifax poses some unique challenges for all players.

MOVED by Gerry Post, seconded by Councillor Lisa Blackburn

**THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report addressing the need to increase the number of accessible taxis in HRM.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Upcoming Town Hall**

The committee discussed planning for the upcoming town hall. Liam MacSween will work with staff to get things organized and welcomes the committee member's input and ideas.

Councillor Lisa Blackburn offered to be the master of ceremonies for the event.

The committee agreed that they would like to take a different more creative approach to its format which would better engage the community. Various ideas were put forward: the use of presentation boards, small group breakouts, groups rotating through specific topic presentations/stations. The goal is to have interactive two way conversations moving away from the traditional reporting and questions from the floor. It will be important that any accessibility concerns with this format be addressed in the planning.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 20, 2017 - 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support