



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
June 19, 2017**

PRESENT: Patricia Gates, Chair
Mikiko Terashima
Johanna Stork
Ryan Delehanty
Sue Uteck
Kristine Webber
Zainib Almukhtar
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Councillor Wayne Mason

STAFF: Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, 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 4:02 p.m. and the committee adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Patricia Gates called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Roll call was taken.

- **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

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

MOVED by Sue Uteck, seconded by Councillor Lisa Blackburn

THAT Ryan Delehanty be nominated Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM

Ryan Delehanty accepted the nomination

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2017, April 24, 2017 and May 15, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Ryan Delehanty

THAT the minutes of April 12, April 24 and May 15, 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 Uteck, 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

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence- NONE

7.2 Petitions- NONE

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Erjon Hatillari- City Lights App

Erjon Hatillari made a presentation to the Committee on his navigation app for the blind which is presently being used in 80 cities around the world. They would like to partner with HRM in the development of the next phase of this app which is estimated to cost \$20,000 and proposes that HRM fund ½ of this cost. This free mobile app uses Google Maps which identifies all the traffic lights in a city. The next phase would interface with the city's traffic light infrastructure to let users know the current status of light signals and the number of seconds for a light change. Launching the next phase would make HRM the first city in the world with this technology available to users. Erjon reviewed specific benefits for both the user and the city. They shared their web site www.citylightsapp.com and their social media links.

Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management, has been working with Erjon Hatillari for 4 months to map the traffic lights in HRM and the next step would be to provide access to the signal network. HRM uses an INet traffic signal system and is in the process of upgrading the traffic lights. 90 have been completed and the business plan would have the remaining 180 upgraded over the next 2 years. It would be necessary to work with HRM's IT team to ensure compatibility with the next step for the app. The Committee asked how the free app would be funded and about any planned pilot testing. Erjon has already tested this in Greece and would ensure the app remains free by selling data to other companies and the technology to other cities. HRM data and information would not be a part of this plan. The Committee also wanted to ensure that this did not replace the existing safety technology but was an additional tool for users. Taso reviewed how it would work in conjunction with HRM's traffic lights and crosswalk systems. Erjon shared that the app would have a user agreement and that a warning would appear if there was any known malfunction of the city's system preventing the safe use of the app. It was noted that this app is presently only available for Apple products.

MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason seconded by Sue Uteck

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of integrating the City Lights App technology into HRM's traffic light infrastructure as outlined in the presentation provided to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on June 19, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3.2 Gerry Post- Update on Bill 59

Gerry Post gave an update on the Province's Accessibility Act and his new role as Executive Director of Accessibility for Nova Scotia. The newly formed directorate will have 6 staff and an advisory board. Their goal is to make Nova Scotia fully accessible by 2030 and will work to implement 6 defined standards. There are implications for municipalities and they will be working with the Union of NS Municipalities to ensure each area has developed an accessibility plan. These plans will also be required from businesses and provincial government departments. There is broad based support from all levels of government. The first steps will be to build a foundation and culture focused on partnering. This committee will be important in the partnering with HRM. Gerry has met with the Rick Hanson Foundation and there is lots of interest in implementing their programs here within the next 6 months. The Committee asked if there would be any incentive for private business to partner. Gerry mentioned that there is a budget for developing grants, tax and cash incentives. Gerry concluded by acknowledging the Committee and the opportunity he has had in serving on it.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1. STAFF

**9.1.1 Introduction of Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
By Laughie Rutt, Diversity Consultant**

Laughie Rutt introduced Kayla Douglas to the Committee. Kayla will be working with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the next 18 months and will attend this Committee's meetings as staff.

9.1.2 Update- Darren Young, Project Manager Operations Support

Darren Young provided updates on recent projects. An accessible boat launch and beach access mats are being installed at Birch Cove. Work is taking place to make the Pavilion more accessible. Work continues at Dartmouth North's outdoor library and at the Cole Harbour turf shed to make both fully accessible. Staff will be working with the Rick Hansen Foundation to get certified and fully accredited. Chair Pat Gates asked if there was an opportunity to audit the Nova Centre for accessibility? It was noted that this is a provincial building.

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

The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) collection was added to Halifax Public Libraries offerings on April 20, 2017. Access to this collection can be done by registering online or at the library. Three criteria must be met: resident of HRM, holder of a Halifax Public Library card and self-identifying a print disability. The content can be accessed by downloading it, home delivery or at the library. The library will be promoting this service throughout the community this summer. The Committee offered some suggestions of who might be interested in a presentation. The Committee asked if the collection included academic content such as university textbooks and papers? It was suggested that the library reach out to Kevin Penny who coordinates the local universities academic liaisons for disability services. Heather MacKenzie handed out an information piece with further detail about the CELA Collection.

9.1.4 Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointment to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group

The following was before the Committee:

- Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group terms of reference

Chair Patricia Gates called for the election of a member to represent the Committee on the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group.

MOVED by Councillor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Mikiko Terashima

THAT Johanna Stork be elected to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group.

Johanna Stork accepted the appointment.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.5 Letter of Appreciation to Jim Donovan- Patricia Gates

Chair Patricia Gates called for the Committee to send a letter of appreciation to Jim Donovan for all his support to the Committee on the occasion of his retirement.

MOVED by Kristine Webber, seconded by Zainib Almkhtar

THAT a letter of appreciation be sent to Jim Donovan on the occasion of his retirement.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.6 Awareness Item from the Chair- Patricia Gates

Chair Patricia Gates shared a recent experience she had which illustrated how difficult it can be for someone with a disability to fully participate at a public event. She encouraged Committee members to be aware of these situations and to approach individuals, introduce themselves and offer assistance to ensure everyone feels welcome and a part of any gathering.

9.1.7 Conflict of Interest and Quorum- Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

The following was before the Committee:

- Conflict of Interest Guidelines from the Local Government Resource handbook (October 2000)

Legislative Assistant Phoebe Rai reviewed guidelines for declaring a conflict of interest and how this impacts Committee business, including meeting quorum. Knowing if there is a potential conflict of interest or if a committee member will be absent in advance is important for the business of the Committee. Phoebe encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to the Municipal Clerk's Office and any member of the Legislative Team.

9.2. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATE- NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 17, 2017 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS- NONE

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support