



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
July 23, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Patricia Gates, Chair  
Ryan Delehanty, Vice Chair  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn  
Jillian Banfield  
Julia Bremner  
Johanna Stork  
Kristine Webber  
Zainab Almuktar

**STAFF:** Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Mike Spicer, Manager of Operations, Halifax Transit  
Heather MacKenzie, Diversity & Accessibility Manager, Halifax Public Libraries  
Liam MacSween, 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 4:00 p.m. adjourned at 6:00 p.m.*

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

Pat Gates, Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 28, 2018**

MOVED by Kristine Webber, seconded by Zainab Almutkar

**THAT the minutes of May 28, 2018 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Ryan Delehanty, seconded by Kristine Webber

**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**

**7.1 Correspondence – NONE**

**7.2 Petitions – NONE**

**7.3 Presentation**

**7.3.1 An Accessible Cogswell Redevelopment Project: Reaching for Rick Hansen Gold – Gerry Post, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate and Barbara MacDonald, Civil and Building Technologies Nova Scotia Community College**

The following was before the committee:

- A presentation entitled: An Accessible Cogswell Redevelopment Project: Reaching for Rick Hansen Gold

Gerry Post, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate and Barbara MacDonald, Civil and Building Technologies, Nova Scotia Community College provided a presentation on the Designation of the Cogswell Redevelopment Project as a Rick Hansen Gold Zone. Highlights of the presentation include:

- An overview of the Rick Hansen Gold Certification program including rating scales, assessment criteria, and certification training options for building officials.
- Opportunities to apply the Rick Hansen Gold Certification to Cogswell Redevelopment Project based on demographic trends, provincial and federal accessible legislation goals, Regional Council priority outcomes, and to futureproof the overall development.

- Sample requirements of the program which include: universally designed open spaces, sheltered and properly graded walkways, non-slip surfaces, tactile strips for intersections, curb ramps, brightly coloured and painted crosswalks with audible and visual signals, etc.
- Incremental costing to include the designation in the design of the overall development.

John Spinelli, Director of the Cogswell Redevelopment project, provided an overview of the Cogswell Redevelopment project and responded to questions from the Committee respecting the proposed implementation of the Rick Hansen Gold Certification.

Barbara MacDonald and Gerry Post responded to questions from the Committee respecting the costing and training requirements required to implement the certification on the Cogswell lands.

MOVED by Zainab Almuktar, seconded by Julia Bremner

**THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to include the designation of the Cogswell District Redevelopment Project as a Rick Hansen Gold Zone in the upcoming Cogswell District Redevelopment 90 percent Design and Approval report, such that the redevelopment of any lands within the Cogswell District achieve the Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Accessibility Standard.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Update – Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction**

Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, provided an update with respect to the opening of the Cole Harbour Turf building which includes a universally accessible washroom facility. Young noted that another similar building will come online over the next two weeks in St. Margaret's Bay. Young further advised that HRM is the first municipality in Nova Scotia to procure accessible beach mats which should be installed in various locations before the end of the season. Young concluded by noting the installation of accessible ramps at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre and the Commons Pavilion.

#### **9.1.2 Update on Access-A-Bus Continuous Service Plan – Mike Spicer, Manager of Operations, Halifax Transit**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation entitled: Continuous Services Improvement Plan for Access-A-Bus

Mike Spicer, Manager of Operations provided a presentation with respect to Halifax Transit's Continuous Improvement Plan for Access-A-Bus. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Staff planning to provide universal access to accessible infrastructure, flexible mobility options with a cost-effective mix of accessible transportation options, the education of users to shift from accessible to conventional transit service, additional capacity on current fleet and service hours to increase ridership, decreasing the timeframes on the current booking window.
- Planned changes to technology, driver training, and public engagement to educate on new Access-A-Bus and Conventional Transit services.

In response to questions from the Committee, Spicer noted the following:

- The need to have consistent driver training to ensure that drivers understand accessibility and are able to effectively serve clients.

- The timeline for driver training (mid to late August) and components of the training to ensure optimal service for clients with cognitive impairments.
- The use of local rehabilitation centres for travel training.

**9.1.3 2018 Town Hall Planning – Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant**

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant provided an overview of the planning for 2018 Town Hall Meeting. MacSween provided clarification on the following:

- The meeting space and an accessibility assessment of the Dartmouth North Community Centre.
- Arrangements for American Sign Language Interpreters and CART Captioning Services.
- A listing of staff panelists, staff displays and communications plans to advertise for the event.
- Potential areas of collaboration with the Halifax Public Libraries to provide programming for children in concert with the meeting.
- The potential to webcast the Town Hall meeting on Facebook.

The Committee held a brief conversation with respect to the logistics and committee volunteer assignments.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

**9.2.1 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Johanna Stork**

Johanna Stork provided an overview of the June 12, 2018 Taxi and Limousine Liaison group. Stork noted the following:

- The new testing and training for taxi drivers in HRM has been finalized. The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia will be providing testing for drivers starting in July 2018.
- A new taxi stand has been installed on Sackville Street in Halifax.
- Discussions with respect to Access-A-Bus improvements and potential collaboration with Halifax Transit on Accessible Transit options.
- The potential for the Accessibility Advisory Committee to view training videos.

**9.1.2 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Jillian Banfield**

Jillian Banfield provided an overview of the June meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Banfield noted a presentation provided by Amber Walker, of the Capital District Health Authority on Health Indicators related to Active Transportation. Banfield advised of the potential for further collaboration between the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Active Transportation Advisory Committee on increasing the number of accessible transit stops. Banfield concluded by providing an overview of a presentation given to the committee on the Halifax Urban Greenway project which includes an accessibility component respecting the grading of the proposed trails.

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 17, 2018**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Liam MacSween  
Legislative Assistant