



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

PRESENT: Patricia Gates, Chair
Ryan Delehanty, Vice Chair
Julia Bremner
Johanna Stork
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Jillian Banfield
Kristine Webber
Zainab Almuktar

STAFF: Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Penny Henneberry, Manager of Buildings and Compliance, Planning and Development
Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Liam MacSween, 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 5:27 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 23, 2018 and September 25, 2018 Town Hall Meeting

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Ryan Delehanty

THAT the minutes of July 23, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Julia Bremner

THAT the minutes of September 25, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Julia Bremner, seconded by Ryan Delehanty

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

Correspondence was received from James Hubley dated September 26, 2018.

7.2 Petitions- None

7.3 Presentations

Making the Deaf and Hard of Hearing welcome at HRM - Elliott Richman, Executive Director, Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia

Elliott Richman, Executive Director Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia, provided a presentation a copy of which is on file. They addressed two key issues and provided recommendations.

The first issue was that HRM does not currently provide sign language interpreters at its recreational programs. This limits young citizens from accessing day camps and other recreational offerings. Legal precedent and human rights legislation along with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities outline and support that these services need to be provided to ensure children have equal access to recreation and leisure. Richman recommends that HRM develop a city-wide policy providing HRM residents of all ages with appropriate support services and that this policy be posted on HRM's website.

The second issue is the absence of professional sign language interpreters at televised HRM Council meetings. The same precedents apply to this issue where it is a civic right to be engaged and able to communicate with Council. The recommendation is that HRM arranges for professional sign language interpretation of its televised Council meetings and that interpreters are shown in split screen as opposed to picture in picture.

Richman noted that ASL is a distinct language used by deaf people who sign. Closed captioning reaches a different audience. The provision of CART services is a separate issue. They confirmed that the technology is available for providing split screen broadcasts which provides a larger image as the picture in picture image is too small for effective viewing. They have provided some web links with lots of information which the Legislative Assistant will share with the Committee.

MOVED by Julia Bremner, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM recommends that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report on the following:

- 1. The development and implementation of a municipal wide policy providing HRM residents of all ages with appropriate support services (sign language interpreters, notetakers, and / or CART) when accessing any HRM recreational programs including day camps.**
- 2. The use of professional sign language interpretation of televised HRM City Hall meetings where interpreters will be shown in split screen as opposed to PIP (“picture in picture”).**

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 updates on current projects. A new exterior lift is being installed as part of the Powerhouse renovation. The Dartmouth Sportsplex will have accessible fitness equipment. Young will begin Rick Hanson training this week which focuses on rating buildings for their level of accessibility. This training will be comprised of 2, 4-day sessions and an exam. Sackville Heights Community Centre have found an alternative solution to elevators and may pursue elevated lifts as an option, bringing considerable cost savings.

9.1.2 Update Accessible Taxi Service in HRM- Penney Henneberry, Manager of Buildings and Compliance, Planning and Development

The Consultant’s report is presently with staff and legal for review to ensure recommendations fit with legislation or whether changes will need to be made. Some recommendations from the 2015 report may be included and brought forward again. HRM follow an owner/operator provision of service model which must be considered. Both Transit and Licensing have an opportunity to look at the industry with the view of enhancing the service provided. There are many options to explore which can result in improved accessible service. Types of vehicles, communication improvements and signage are all considerations. This report will be going to Regional Council before the end of 2018. The Integrated Mobility Plan will inform the report and recommendations.

The taxi service survey received over 13,000 responses. Lady drive-her car service and Uber are also current discussions affecting this industry.

In response to questions Henneberry noted that in Ontario enhanced service is accessed with a chit system. HRM have 1000 licenses and on average 10% are retired each year. There are presently 20 accessible cabs in HRM. Changing HRM's system to a fleet model is an option. The Committee shared examples of taxi experiences and agreed that there are many opportunities and industry change is needed. There seems to be a growing issue with driver's denying access for fares with guide dogs where the drivers received warnings but not fines. Henneberry encouraged the use of 311 for reporting any issues with taxi service, which provides tracking and quick response and investigation.

9.1.3 2018 Town Hall Debrief– Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, noted that there were approximately 60 attendees this year as well as 4000 viewers accessing Facebook Live. This was an effective way to reach the public who may not have been able to attend and the video is archived on HRM's Facebook page. The Committee will want to begin thinking about next year and consider choice of venue and perhaps rotating which staff or business units report. It was suggested that the Clerk's Office may want to report next year on accessibility planning for the 2020 Municipal Election.

The Chair noted that the Committee will look at scheduling at next month's meeting and consider meeting every two months moving forward to ensure a fulsome agenda.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Johanna Stork

Johanna was unable to attend the most recent meeting.

9.2.2 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Jillian Banfield

Jillian provided a written update. The last Committee meeting focused on bike lane construction and they received a presentation on the Barrington Street Complete Streets Project.

10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 19, 2018 – 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support