



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
MINUTES  
February 19, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Tova Sherman  
Brian George  
Haylee Milne  
Julia Bremner  
Jillian Banfield  
Jacki Purcell  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn  
Councillor Richard Zurawski

**REGRETS:** Carole Arsenault  
Victoria Levack

**STAFF:** Darren Young, Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern, Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
Alan Howell, Planner III, Planning and Development  
Elora Wilkinson, Planner II, Planning and Development  
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk  
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

*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 4:02 p.m. and adjourned at 6:06 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall 1847 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Round table introductions were done.

- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Committee considered deferring the annual election to allow new members to get to know one another and to ensure all were present.

MOVED by Tova Sherman, seconded by Haylee Milne

**THAT the Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair be deferred to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM, to ensure participation of all members of the Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

MOVED by Jillian Banfield, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT Julia Bremner be appointed acting Chair of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM until the Annual Election takes place.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2018**

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

**THAT the minutes of November 19, 2018 be approved as distributed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Deletion:

Item 9.1.5 Parks and Recreation Update is deleted as Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist is absent.

The agenda was approved as amended.

**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/DISCUSSION

### 9.1.1 HRM Board and Committee Orientation – Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director Office of Diversity and Inclusion, provided the Committee with an overview of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. A copy of this presentation is on file. Jones-Grant reviewed the office's areas of focus and its role within HRM: working with business units on their diversity and inclusion goals and initiatives; conducting corporate training and providing advice on corporate policy. The link for the Diversity and Inclusion Framework was shared and will be emailed to committee members for their reference. The corporate definitions of diversity and inclusion were reviewed. Jones-Grant emphasized how a clear understanding of diversity and inclusion impacts the work that is done by HRM and how this is being integrated into all business units.

It was noted that the Committee adds this lens with the work they do and that the member's expertise provides valuable input and information for HRM. Provincial and federal acts and regulations are important considerations for the Committee and how they work with these bodies. Paul Vienneau is now working with the CAO's office and the Province on their goals and work.

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, shared an Advisory Board and Committee Orientation presentation. A copy of this presentation is on file. HRM's decision making process was outlined. The Committee's business is conducted using Administrative Order One and their specific Terms of Reference. MacSween also reviewed: quorum, conflict of interest, the agenda and the components of a committee meeting and member conduct guidelines.

### 9.1.2 Staff Presentation – General approach to Secondary & Backyard Suites and Special Care Facilities/Seniors Housing – Alan Howell, Planner III, Planning and Development

Alan Howell, Planner III, gave a presentation on Affordable Housing Workplan Items. A copy of this presentation is on file. They provided a snapshot of current housing needs in HRM with comparisons to other Canadian cities on two key measures: percentage of households spending greater than 30% of household income on housing and identified core housing needs. HRM's affordable housing work plan will focus on: removing policy and regulatory barriers and enabling lower cost development. Howell then reviewed the definitions of Secondary Suites and Backyard Suites, giving examples of each. Presently there is inconsistency with permitting, rules and limitations on these types of dwellings in HRM. There is also growing demand for this type of housing and development. Public consultation took place throughout the fall of 2018. Howell shared staff's proposed direction along with some specific considerations, noting that the report is presently being drafted. Howell then reviewed HRM's definition of Special Care Facilities. There are currently multiple definitions and inconsistent treatment in regulation. At the same time there is a clear demand for this type of housing. Some consultation has taken place and the remaining process was summarized which will include a provincial review.

Howell clarified that water and sewage for backyard suites would be considered separate connections within the service boundary and will depend on lot size and existing sewage and water in unserved areas. Provincial legislation and regulation under the Special Care Act does not factor into the building application process. Howell noted that the initiation report from July 2018 could be used to reference and that the current staff report is due in the spring. Building code and compliance are presently reviewing the work to determine the inclusion of accessibility requirements and whether they should be regulated.

### 9.1.3 Staff Presentation - Functional Design for Spring Garden Road between South Park Street to Queen Street – Elora Wilkinson, Planner II, Planning and Development

Elora Wilkinson, Planner II, provided a presentation to the Committee, seeking their input as a part of the staff report being prepared. A copy of this presentation is on file. A map was shown identifying the functional versus schematic limits. This project addresses many of Council's current priorities. Wilkinson reviewed some key project objectives including: place making, walking/wheeling, transit and traffic. Data

has been collected on the modes of transportation at various times in the area. The 2018 Stoplet Pilot Project provided an opportunity for testing and gathering of feedback on some of the new streetscaping concepts. Results of a public engagement survey were shared.

The Committee discussed the importance of addressing the concern regarding panhandlers in the area with a focus on being more inclusive and considering how marginalized individuals should be treated as a part of the community. The Committee noted that accessibility and diversity need to be included in plans for the area. Wilkinson stated that the streets are being designed for everyone and these types of conversations have been considered and included.

Wilkinson reviewed three options being considered in the design regarding transit: Option 1- Transit Prioritized Vehicle Thoroughfare, Option 2- Turn Restricted Transit Priority and Option 3- Daytime Transit Corridor. There has also been an analysis of one-way street options. Wilkinson shared the stages in the public engagement process for this project, where the project is in the process and next steps. They hope to be presenting to the Transportation Standing Committee at the end of March. Detail design will follow. Wilkinson encouraged the Committee to share their thoughts and feedback with Planning as the project evolves.

The Committee discussed options for changes to pedestrian crossings. Based on current volumes, the use of leading pedestrian intervals is most appropriate. Widening sidewalks and improving curb cuts was considered important. The Committee also noted that Bill 59 must be considered in any future planning.

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

The Committee did not receive this update as time did not allow.

**9.1.5 Update – Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist, Parks and Recreation**

This item was deleted during the approval of the order of business.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

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

The Committee did not receive this update as time did not allow.

**10. ADDED ITEMS- NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 25, 2019 - 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

**INFORMATION ITEMS – NONE**

Sharon Chase  
Legislative Support