



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
May 22, 2019**

PRESENT: Victoria Levack, Vice Chair
Brian George
Jillian Banfield
Jacki Purcell
Elizabeth Doull
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Julia Bremner, Chair
Haylee Milne
Councillor Richard Zurawski

STAFF: Eric Lucic, Manager for Regional Planning, Planning & Development
Kasia Tota, Principal Planner, Planning & Development
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Mike Spicer, Operations Manager, Halifax Transit
Victoria Horne, Parking Services Program Manager
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
David Perusse, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Hannah Forsyth, Legislative Support, Office of the Municipal Clerk

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 at Halifax.ca

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax NS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Tracey Jones-Grant, seconded by Jillian Banfield

THAT the minutes of March 25, 2019 be approved as presented

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Deletions: 9.1.4 Update – Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist, Parks and Recreation

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Jillian Banfield

THAT the agenda be approved as amended

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 – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATION

7.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received for Item 9.1.2. This correspondence was circulated to the Committee.

7.2 Petitions - NONE

7.3 Presentations - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1.1 Staff Presentation – Accessible Parking Engagement Sessions – Victoria Horne, Parking Services Program Manager

Victoria Horne, Manager of Parking Services, outlined the four accessible parking engagement sessions that took place in 2018, and the objective of creating a corporate accessible framework. Horne stated he feedback collected through the sessions included better signage and placement of parking spaces, improved management of existing spaces permits and misuse, public education and different treatment for different vehicle types. Horne listed the actions that resulted from the feedback, such as addressing existing signage, reviewing current spaces and efforts to add more and better spaces. Future actions include reporting to Council on offering accessible parking for free, new parking meters, reviewing parking loss and mitigation and changing the construction notification processes.

The committee noted the current difficulty in reading the words on the parking meters, such as the cost and time remaining. Furthermore, in the winter months it is hard to access the meters when there are snowbanks in the way.

Staff noted that the new pay stations will have enhanced LED screens to improve visibility.

9.1.2 Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw (Package A)

The following was before the Advisory Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated April 3, 2019
- A staff presentation dated June 3, 2019
- Correspondence from Stella Lord

Eric Lucic, Manager for Regional Planning, and Kasia Tota, Principal Planner, presented an overview of the Centre Plan documents. Staff outlined the purpose and objective of the regional plan and the role of the committee in the approval process. Staff noted the existing planning strategies for the region and clarified that Package B will cover the downtown core. Staff briefly outlined recent engagement efforts and summarized recent changes to the document since it was presented to the committee last year, such as built form regulations, bonus zoning and heritage property regulations.

Staff highlighted the environmental regulations, sustainability considerations and economic development policies that will be incorporated into the regional plan. Staff also made note of the affordable housing components of the regional plan, such as permitted shared housing, secondary suites, incentive/bonus zoning, and policy support to the Affordable Housing Workplan. Staff presented the accessibility and mobility aspects of the regional plan. Such as minimum setbacks, permitting accessibility ramps, site plan requirements for accessible open spaces, barrier free requirements for grade private open spaces and parking areas, sidewalk and building entrance connections, and accessible amenity spaces. Staff concluded the presentation by outlining the adoption path of the regional plan, summarizing the positive recommendations of the other committees thus far, and stating next steps.

The committee discussed the importance of integrating affordable housing units throughout the regional plan, and considering the accessibility of the waterfront in package B. The committee noted the pedestrian focused language throughout all documents, and the need to revise the pedestrian first terminology. The committee also discussed the impacts of the regional plan on diverse communities, with concern for groups that may be pushed outside the core area. Committee members stated that they did not have an adequate amount of time to thoroughly read and review the large documents; and, therefore, they did not feel sufficiently prepared to make a positive recommendation and discussed abstentions.

The Committee considered a motion to defeat the proposed staff recommendation due to insufficient review time; a special meeting of the Advisory Committee was proposed for June 3, 2019 to reconsider the matter.

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

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

9.1.4 Update – Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist, Parks and Recreation

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

9.1.5 Update – Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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

9.1.6 Additional Meeting Dates for 2019

MOVED by Brian George, seconded by Jillian Banfield

THAT the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM approve the following additional meeting dates for 2019: June 17, October 21, and December 16 (if required).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Support Persons for Access-A-Bus – Brian George

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

9.2.2 Update from the 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 – June 17, 2019 - 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Hannah Forsyth
Legislative Support