



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
July 15, 2019**

PRESENT: Victoria Levack, Vice Chair
Jillian Banfield
Jacki Purcell
Councillor Richard Zurawski
Haylee Milne
Elizabeth Doull

REGRETS: Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Julia Bremner, Chair

STAFF: Heather MacKenzie, Diversity Services, Halifax Public Libraries
Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk
Liam MacSween, 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 4:01 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax NS

Introduction of Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 17, 2019

MOVED by Jillian Banfield, seconded by Jacki Purcell

THAT the minutes of June 17, 2019 be approved as presented

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Deletions: 9.1.1 Update – Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction

Additions: 10.1 Dunbrack Street Roses – Councillor Zurawski

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Haylee Milne

THAT the agenda be approved as amended

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Town Hall Planning Update

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, advised the committee that staff visited several potential town hall locations and concluded that the O'Regan Hall at the Central Library was the best option so far. Other venues, such as the Canada Games Centre and the Halifax Forum, presented accessibility concerns. A formal report will come to the committee for consideration in September.

The committee asked staff to consider the participation of rural residents and suggested looking into Cole Harbour Place as a possible location as well.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATION

7.1 Correspondence

Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received from Allison Garber, dated July 15, 2019. This correspondence was circulated to the committee.

The committee discussed the correspondence and the importance of accessible summer camps. The committee also discussed quiet rooms and sensory overload in terms of an inclusive day camp experience. The appropriate staff from Parks and Recreation were not present to answer questions or

provide context to the correspondence, so the committee discussed forwarding the correspondence to staff. The committee also considered bringing a motion forward in September to ask for a staff report that would scope the whole issue, with assistance from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Jacki Purcell

THAT the correspondence from Allison Garber dated May 24, 2019 regarding inclusive summer day camp enrollment be forwarded to Parks & Recreation staff for further action.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

7.2 Petitions - NONE

7.3 Presentations - NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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

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

9.2 MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY

9.2.1 Update from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Jillian Banfield

Jillian Banfield advised the committee that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recently received a presentation on the Cogswell redevelopment. The project is working towards Rick Hanson Gold status and have made changes such as changing a staircase to a ramp in the designs. Banfield also noted that Common Roots Urban Farm moved to Bayers road, and there are concerns with crossing the road to get there, given that the basic crosswalk is insufficient for anyone with visual or hearing impairments.

The committee discussed the details of Rick Hanson certifications, and noted that Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, could provide an update on HRM's progress in meeting those assessment targets. The committee also discussed advocating for accessibility in rural areas.

9.2.2 Taxi Meter Accessibility – Liz Doull

Elizabeth Doull noted concerns with the visibility of meters in taxis and cabs. Doull explained that the meters are not currently visually accessible because the meters are too low and need to be higher up on the dash in order to see the screen.

Staff noted that there is a Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group that advises HRM staff, and that these concerns could be forwarded to that group for their consideration. Staff did clarify that the municipality can only influence change through licensing. The Legislative Assistant stated that they will forward comments and concerns to the appropriate staff.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Dunbrack Street Roses

Councillor Zurawski advised the committee of a plan to cut the roses on Dunbrack Street as they are limiting the line of sight in the crosswalk and raising safety concerns. Councillor Zurawski further advised of opposition expressed by some residents to the plan. The committee discussed the increased safety risks for wheelchair users due to limited line of sight at the crosswalk and noted the additional amount of

time spent in the crosswalk by wheelchair users. The committee further discussed concerns with inadequate walking times and signals in crosswalks and visual impediments in HRM. Councillor Zurawski thanked the committee for their feedback.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 16, 2019 - 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall
1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Hannah Forsyth
Legislative Support