

PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM
FROM: Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
DATE: October 25, 2019
SUBJECT: **Update on Planning for 2019 Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility**

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Municipal Clerk's Office are working to arrange the 2019 Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility.

The aim of the Town Hall is to receive feedback and input from HRM residents on accessibility issues, hear what accessibility means to different HRM residents and take note of what improvements are required and how improvements can be made.

At the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility held on September 16, 2019, the Committee:

1. Approved the date of November 19, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. as the date of the 2019 Town Hall meeting on accessibility and the Multipurpose Room at Cole Harbour Place as the venue; and
2. Approved a traditional town hall meeting format with high level reporting on successes and challenges from Corporate Facility Design & Construction, Halifax Transit, Transportation and Public Works and Parks and Recreation followed by breakout roundtable discussions on public facilities, public transportation, roads and public walkways and recreation.

The following has been undertaken to date:

1. Booking of Multipurpose Room at Cole Harbour Place for November 19, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
2. Booking of ASL interpreters and legislative support
3. Consultation between ODI and the Clerk's Office on refining the format and facilitation of the Town Hall Meeting

Changes

Recognizing the limitations of CART, after internal consultation, it is being proposed that the approved format be amended slightly.

It is proposed that high level reporting on successes and challenges of the past year be given by Corporate Facility Design & Construction, Halifax Transit, Transportation and Public Works and Parks and Recreation, as previously approved. It is proposed that Office of Diversity & Inclusion and 311 also present.

Following the presentations, a general discussion be held without breaking into groups. This would be led by the facilitator so that extensive feedback is received from the public on how accessibility can be improved in each of the six areas reported. Feedback would be given systematically by topic with ten minutes given to each topic. The facilitator will then summarize and close the meeting.

Next Steps

1. Staff will look into facilitation by an external facilitator and will also reach out to ISANS for translation services.
2. Staff will also finalize booking of CART, braille and AV services in the next week.
3. It is intended to work with the HRM Communications Team on advertising and posters with the aim of having advertising going out two weeks in advance of the Town Hall. Advertising will be in the Metro and on posters in HRM recreation centres and on HRM's digitalized screens. ODI contracts, Councillor newsletters, Committee members and ISANS contacts will also be used to spread the word. Staff will also reach out to Community Health Boards.
4. Invitations will be sent out to third parties to set up booths in the perimeter of the room.
5. Volunteer sighted guides from the Committee will also be required.

Outcome

- Recommendations and input received from the Town Hall Meeting will be compiled into a Report to be forwarded to the Executive Standing Committee by the Chair of the Committee.