



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
Minutes
December 16, 2019**

PRESENT: Julia Bremner, Chair
Victoria Levack, Vice Chair
Jillian Banfield
Elizabeth Doull

REGRETS: Jacki Purcell
Councillor Lisa Blackburn
Councillor Richard Zurawski

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Isaac Cormier, Assistant to Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
Alicia Wall, 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 4:08 p.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 28, 2019 & November 19, 2019, Town Hall Meeting

MOVED by Vicki Levack, seconded by Elizabeth Doull

THAT the minutes of October 28, 2019 and November 19, 2019, Town Hall Meeting be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Jillian Banfield, seconded by Elizabeth Doull

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

6.1 - September 16, 2019 – Appointment of Member Representative to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group

Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant explained the nomination process to the Committee.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of member representative to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group. Jillian Banfield nominated Victoria Levack. The Chair called for any further nominations. Hearing none, Victoria Levack was appointed representative to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group.

MOVED by Jillian Banfield, seconded by Elizabeth Doull

THAT the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM nominate Victoria Levack to serve as the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM representative on the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group for a term of two (2) years.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence- NONE

7.2 Petitions- NONE

7.3 Presentations- NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Staff Presentation – Administrative Order on Future Roles and Responsibilities of Community Trails Associations with Respect to Active Transportation Facilities

The Vice Chair invited Emma Martin, Active Transportation Community Programs Coordinator, Project Planning & Design Services, to take the floor.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

Martin explained that the objective of the presentation is to present the project plan and to receive feedback from the Committee with respect to making trails more accessible. An Administrative Order is being developed for Council's consideration that updates the roles and responsibilities of community trails associations and establishes a Municipal grants program to support the work of these associations. The biggest stakeholder is Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) which meets monthly. Martin noted that there have been 119 kms of trails built since 1999 with the majority being on provincial land and that recreational trails differ from active transportation trails as active transportation trails connect destinations.

Martin explained that there is a lack of clear responsibility between what trails supporters should do and what HRM should do. It is hoped that these roles will be clarified through the Administrative Order which should be in place by September of 2020.

Members responded to the presentation. The following points and clarification were noted:

- Members suggested putting an "A" at the trailhead, so people would know its accessible
- The Committee suggested reviewing and comparing criteria from other jurisdictions that have accessible trails
- Members noted that using all terrain vehicles (ATVs) can reduce accessibility on trails
- Railings on bridges and clear signage were mentioned as ways to assist with accessible needs

Members questioned whether trails are paved or not. Martin indicated that some trails are paved and some have crusher dust and that they are currently identifying issues with the use of ATVs on trails but not sure there is a lot they can do since the Province owns the majority of the land.

9.1.2 Staff Presentation – Dutch Village Road Complete Streets Project

The Chair invited Leen Romaneh, Transportation Planner, Strategic Transportation Planning, to take the floor.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

Leen Romaneh advised that engagement is taking place with stakeholders and that it is still early in process. They further stated that Dutch Village Road has been identified as a candidate bicycle route, that there are no sidewalks on west side of the street and that a lot of the existing parking spots are encroaching in the right of way. Further, that approximately 16,000 cars use Dutch Village Road per day and there are only two bus routes servicing the street with no new routes being proposed in the Moving Forward Together Plan.

Romaneh explained that sidewalks, curbs and a raised protected bike lane are being proposed for both sides of the street and the process has started for acquiring properties that will be needed.

Romaneh confirmed they are monitoring similar projects for ideas.

It was noted that sometimes bike lanes affect accessibility with respect to parking and bus stops.

9.1.3 Update – Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The Chair invited Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, to take the floor.

Melissa Myers stated that they are hoping to present the Accessibility Strategy to Council in the New Year and confirmed that it has been presented to the HRM Business Units.

9.1.4 2020 Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Jillian Banfield, seconded by Vicki Levack

THAT the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM adopt the proposed 2020 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 7, 2019.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOVED by Vicki Levack, seconded by Jillian Banfield

THAT this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 20, 2020 - Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support