



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
December 17, 2020**

PRESENT: Victoria Levack, Chair
Samantha Horne
Leslie Gates
Nicole MacDonald
Jacki Purcell
Aja Joshi
Elizabeth Doull

REGRETS: Andrew Taylor, Vice Chair
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Russell

STAFF: Lynn Llewellyn, Manager of Operations, Halifax Transit
Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion
Mairead Barry, Director of Strategy, Halifax Public Libraries
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Facility Construction and Design
Haruka Aoyama, 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 2:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 16, 2020

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Leslie Gates

THAT the minutes of November 16, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Aja Joshi

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 – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Janine Verge and circulated to the Committee.

Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Facility Construction and Design indicated they are in the process of researching loop systems and obtaining pricing.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Proposed 2021 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Leslie Gates

THAT the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in Halifax Regional Municipality approve their proposed 2021 meeting schedule as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Annual Town Hall

It was noted by the Legislative Assistant that due to Covid-19 restrictions the Committee may not be able to hold its annual town hall meeting for 2021 in-person. The Committee should explore other options such as holding the town hall virtually. A target date of October or November 2021 is recommended.

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion indicated that holding the town hall meeting virtually as well as in person may be an option. Myers encouraged the Committee to think about possible venues should the meeting go ahead in-person.

The Committee offered the following feedback:

- not all rural areas have access to internet;
- locations such as libraries and community centres would be good venues;
- to keep communication access real-time translation (CART) in mind; and
- if the town hall went ahead virtually as well as in-person, multiple interpreters would be required.

9.1.3 2021/2022 Work Plan

The Legislative assistant is working with Transportation & Public Works to arrange a presentation to the Committee regarding curb and sidewalk work.

Myers encouraged the Committee to keep thinking about ideas for its work plan.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATE

9.2.1 Access to 311

It was noted that the webpage was not accessible for deaf, hard of hearing or non-verbal individuals, the need for live chat is great and the TTY number could not be located.

Young confirmed that there is a TTY number listed on the website, the live chat is being worked on and that there is a 711-message relaying service available.

The Committee would like to see the TTY number in a more accessible location or some sort of accessibility button.

Young further confirmed that there is an accessibility button, but it was not in a great location on the webpage.

9.2.2 Automating Data Management for ADA Paratransit Eligibility

In respect of the information circulated to the Committee, it was noted by some members that the language could be improved.

The Committee requested that it receive notices for applicable public consultations.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 18, 2021

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Assistant