



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 20, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrew Taylor, Chair
Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Paul Russell
Councillor Trish Purdy
Nicole McDonald
Elizabeth Doull
Michelle Mahoney
Rachele Manett

REGRETS: Jordan Waterbury
Kristen Hemming

STAFF: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO
Annie Sherry, 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 4:06 p.m. The Committee adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 27, 2023

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Jacki Purcell

THAT the minutes of February 27, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

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 – NONE

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 2023-24 Budget Adjust List Overview and Discussion

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated March 17, 2023

Michael Pappas, Director of Corporate Planning, and Dave Harley, Director of Accounting and Financial Reporting spoke to the proposed Budget and the Budget Adjustment List and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Michelle Mahoney

THAT the Accessability Advisory Committee approve that the Chair send a letter on behalf of the Accessability Advisory Committee to Budget Committee for consideration during the 2023-24 Budget Adjustment List discussion.

Pappas and Harley responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The following was noted by the Committee during their discussion regarding the Budget Adjustment List:

- Concerns regarding increased costs to services creating access issues and disproportionately affecting racialized and low-income individuals.
- Impacts on the deaf community if interpreter services are cut, i.e., not being able to attend events.
- Engaging the Accessibility Advisory Committee earlier in the budget process.
- Using plain language when drafting documents related to the budget.
- Keeping the tax increase as low as possible.
- The importance of equity throughout the budget planning process.
- Support for the Affordable Access Program, Public Safety Strategy and addressing the housing crisis.
- Turning proposed savings in areas like parking enforcement into investments in public transit.
- A desire to see more transparency around police spending and hiring.

Councillor Russell proposed the motion be amended by adding, “of the resident members” immediately following, “on behalf”. As provided for in section 53 (2) of *Administrative Order One, Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Michelle Mahoney

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approve that the Chair send a letter on behalf of the resident members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to Budget Committee for consideration during the 2023-24 Budget Adjustment List discussion.

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant noted that if included in the work plan for the upcoming year, the Committee could work with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO and Finance & Asset Management to advise on disability issues that have an impact on the budget planning process, and support staff in the development of a formalized equity lens for future budget processes.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE

9.3 STAFF UPDATES – NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 17, 2023

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support