



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 12, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Taylor, Chair  
June Feswick, Vice Chair  
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Trish Purdy  
Councillor Paul Russell  
April Adams  
Elizabeth Doull  
Michelle Mahoney

**REGRETS:** Kristen Hemming  
Jordan Waterbury  
Rachele Manett

**STAFF:** Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant  
Lama Farhat, Legislative Assistant

*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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. The Committee adjourned at 6:04 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 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.

### **1.1 Annual Election of Chair**

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT Andrew Taylor be nominated Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.**

Andrew Taylor was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Michelle Mahoney

**THAT Andrew Taylor be appointed Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Andrew Taylor was declared the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Andrew Taylor assumed the Chair.

### **1.2 Annual Election of Vice Chair**

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Elizabeth Doull, seconded by April Adams

**THAT June Feswick be nominated Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.**

June Feswick was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT June Feswick be appointed Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

June Feswick was declared the Vice Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **1.3 Election of Representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by April Adams

**THAT Michelle Mahoney be nominated representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Michelle Mahoney was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by April Adams

**THAT Michelle Mahoney be appointed representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Michelle Mahoney was declared the representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 17, 2023**

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the minutes of April 17, 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 Purdy, seconded by June Feswick

**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 - None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation - None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Municipal Services for the Deaf and Heard of Hearing – Municipal Clerk’s Office Presentation**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated June 12, 2023

Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. Maclean provided clarification on the considerations for the provision of American Sign Language (ASL) as a standard service. MacLean noted a report will be brought forward to the Executive

Standing Committee for deliberation. Committee members expressed interest in reviewing the report as well, with particular interest around the cost, feasibility, considerations for ASL services.

In response to the presentation, the Committee provided the following input:

- Establishment of standard guidelines and best practices for the provision of ASL services;
- Proactive communication of the availability of ASL and CART services;
- Provision of services during the public participation portion of Budget Committee and Regional Council; and
- Use of Video Relay Services (VRS) and live-chat functions.

### **9.1.2 Municipal Services for the Deaf and Heard of Hearing – Parks and Recreation Presentation**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated June 12, 2023

Cassady Yochoff, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the anticipated timeline of the project and alignment with the Accessibility Town Hall. Yochoff noted, pending approval of the project, the anticipated launch is 2024.

In response to the presentation, the Committee provided the following input:

- Annual or bi-annual staff training;
- Partnerships with Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) or Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA); and
- Communication of pilot program at the Accessibility Town Hall and potential recruitment opportunities for the program.

### **9.1.3 Accessibility Strategy Update**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated May 29, 2023

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding park audits by Parks and Recreation and the estimated availability of online Access-a-Bus (accessible bus) booking. Myers spoke to the consultation process for the Accessibility Strategy and noted the strategy is updated triennially. Myers added the Committee will be consulted prior to the next update.

### **9.1.4 2023 Work Plan Discussion**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated June 7, 2023 with attached 2022 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant spoke to the staff memorandum and provided an overview of the process for the development of the work plan.

In response to the overview, the Committee suggested the following topics that may inform the development of the 2023 work plan:

- Budget engagement: participation of the Committee in the budget process, engagement with Budget Committee, Audit and Finance Standing Committee, and the Chief Financial Officer on the role of the Committee in the budget process;
- Role of the Committee around accessible design and built form projects: Spring Garden Road Re-capitalization Project (surface, walkway, planters, and traffic concerns), placement, color, and maintenance of accessible mechanisms;

- Improved communication between the Accessibility Advisory Committee and HRM Business Units; and
- Accessible parking and parking spaces: monitoring, availability, and by-law enforcement.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**

**9.3 STAFF UPDATES**

**9.3.1 Halifax Common Aquatic Centre**

Darren Young, Manager, Major Projects spoke to the opening of the Halifax Common Aquatic Centre on Cogswell Street. Young noted an invitation will be extended to the Committee members for a tour in early July.

**10. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 17, 2023**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Lama Farhat  
Legislative Assistant