

Accessibility Advisory Committee – 2018 Summary

The Accessibility Advisory Committee advises and assists Regional Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services on persons with disabilities.

This summary is not an official record of all work and recommendations made in 2018. For more detail, please refer to the approved minutes available online at <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/agendas-meetings-reports>

January 15, 2018

The Committee received an update on Community engagement from Tracy Jones-Grant, Tracy advised of plans to hold community engagement sessions with the intent of identifying accessibility needs in HRM and develop a corporate accessibility framework. The Committee also received an update on Facility Accessibility from Darren Young, Darren advised that (a) the Pavilion ramp has been completed and slip strips are going to be installed (b) the Findlay Centre work is out to Tender (c) the Administrative Order for Universal Access is being worked on (d) the Cole Harbour Turf universal washrooms are under construction (e) money has been set aside for updates to the Library, as per the audit.

February 26, 2018

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Barry Blakeney re: Access-A-Bus Service and approved the following motion:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee: Forward Mr. Blakeney’s correspondence to staff.

The Committee also reviewed the updated Draft Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan; an expansion of goal #3 to create space for dialogue between business units and the Committee. The following motion was approved:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee: Approve the Updated Work Plan as amended.

April 16, 2018

The Committee received a staff presentation from Jacob Ritchie on the Center Plan titled “Introduction to the Draft ‘Package A’ Center Planning Documents” and the Committee received updates on Halifax Public Libraries Diversity and Accessibility Initiatives. The Committee also passed a motion to issue a letter of thanks to Ahmed Kidwai in light of his extensive contributions to the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee: Issue a letter of thanks to Ahmed Kidwai from the Accessibility Advisory Committee

May 28, 2018

The Committee put forward a motion to forward correspondence from Emily Martinello dated May 26, 2018 regarding accessible parking to Transportation & Public Works staff, as a result, the committee approved the following motion:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee: forward the correspondence from Emily Martinello dated May 26, 2018 regarding accessible parking to Transportation & Public Works staff.

The Committee received an update from Darren Young on the Draft Administrative Order 2018-002-OP – Universal Access to Municipal Facilities. The Committee also discussed Town Hall Planning and the Committee asked if staff could prepare to deliver a presentation for the DIASY readers program at the townhall meeting.

July 23, 2018

The Committee received a presentation from Gerry Post and Barbara MacDonald regarding Accessibility and the Cogswell Redevelopment project and approved the following motion:

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to include the designation of the Cogswell District Redevelopment Project as a Rick Hansen Gold Zone in the upcoming Cogswell District Redevelopment 90 percent Design and Approval report, such that the redevelopment of any lands within the Cogswell District achieve the Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Accessibility Standard.

The Committee also received a presentation from Mike Spicer on Access-A-Bus Continuous Service Plan, and an overview of a presentation given to the committee on the Halifax Urban Greenway project which includes an accessibility component respecting the grading of the proposed trails, from Jillian Banfield.

September 25, 2018

The Committee held the Town Hall Meeting to discuss and gather input on current HRM accessibility projects – for more detailed information please visit: <https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/2018-advisory-committee-accessibility-hrm-town-hall-meeting>

October 15, 2018

The Committee received a presentation from Elliott Richman on Making the Deaf and Hard of Hearing welcome at HRM and approved the following motion:

THAT the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM recommends that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report on the following:

- 1) The development and implementation of a municipal wide policy providing HRM residents of all ages with appropriate support services (sign language interpreters, notetakers, and / or CART) when accessing any HRM recreational programs including day camps.**
- 2) The use of professional sign language interpretation of televised HRM City Hall meetings where interpreters will be shown in split screen as opposed to PIP (“picture in picture”).**