



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES  
May 17, 2021**

- PRESENT:** Andrew Taylor, Chair  
Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair  
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Paul Russell  
Nicole McDonald  
Elizabeth Doull  
Rachele Manett
- REGRETS:** Samantha Horne  
Aja Joshi  
Leslie Gates
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Renee Kuehnle
- STAFF:** Aaron Murnaghan, Principal Heritage Planner, Planning & Development  
Anne Totten, Planner II, Planning & Development  
Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Facility Design & Construction, Corporate & Customer Services  
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant  
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant  
Alicia Wall, Legislative Support

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM at a future meeting.*

*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).*

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**Advisory Committee on  
Accessibility in HRM  
Special Meeting  
May 17, 2021**

*The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Elizabeth Doull

**THAT the minutes of April 19, 2021 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**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 Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan Consultation**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated March 2021

Anne Totten, Planner II, Planning & Development presented to the Committee indicating this has been an ongoing project since 2018. HRM's goals are to express culture through place, develop cultural capacity and value creativity. Anne Totten noted that work has been done with the Province of Nova Scotia to prepare a map of cultural and heritage assets, and the engagement process has focused on the Indigenous community whose unique interests and views may not be addressed through the standard engagement process.

Some of the feedback received through the engagement process includes:

- The importance of HRM recognizing under-represented communities;
- Engagement process needs to be diversified;
- HRM should partner with communities for celebrations & events;
- HRM activities need to be accessible and inclusive;
- Improvements need to be made to transportation infrastructure; and

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- Grants need to be equitable and sustainable

Some action items that have been identified include:

- Developing interpretation framework;
- Developing a conservation management plan for heritage properties;
- Improve access to Africville;
- Develop a regional museum strategy;
- Ensuring HRM events are fully accessible; and
- Expanding opportunities for youth

In response to the presentation, the Committee noted the following:

- The importance of having interpreters at events;
- There should be handrails along boardwalks;
- There should be a virtual option for events and meetings even when things return to in-person as to create accessibility;
- The need to engage different groups;
- Having surveys, etc. also sent by mail for those who may not have internet access; and
- Defining roles of the Province of Nova Scotia versus HRM

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

### **9.1.2 2021 Work Plan**

The following was before the Committee:

- Draft Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant indicated that the Committee started developing the work plan in March and the hope is to have it finalized and approved at the June meeting of the Committee. The three themes identified are accessibility of sidewalks, educating the community on disability and accessibility and the annual town hall.

With respect to sidewalks, the Committee indicated, that if possible, they would like to have an inventory of the number of sidewalks in HRM, as well as ones that have issues. The Committee is open to receiving presentations from staff and other community groups. Some other items of interest noted were sidewalks affected by construction and standards for maintenance, painting and accessibility.

With respect to education the Committee felt more education needs to be done in workplaces and felt overall, there is a lack of knowledge by the general community with respect to accessibility and disabilities.

With respect to the town hall, it was noted that better advertising could be done, as well as having live stream and in-person options. CART captioning services should also be offered as opposed to just interpreters.

### **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS - NONE**

### **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 21, 2021**

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Alicia Wall  
Legislative Support