



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 18, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Taylor, Chair  
Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair  
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon  
Councillor Paul Russell  
Nicole McDonald  
Elizabeth Doull  
Samantha Horne  
Leslie Gates  
Rachele Manett

**REGRETS:** Aja Joshi

**STAFF:** Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
Mairead Barry, Director of Strategy, Halifax Public Libraries  
Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Facility Design & Construction, Corporate & Customer Services  
Pat McGrath, Manager, Aquatic and Inclusion Services, Recreation Programming  
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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. and adjourned 4:58 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the minutes of September 20, 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 Deagle Gammon, seconded by Rachele Manett

**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 Annual Town Hall Update**

The following was before the Committee:

- Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated October 14, 2021

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant indicated that plans for the annual town hall are in the works and the venue as well as the technical support have been booked. Invitations have been sent to various Business Units within HRM inviting people to speak. Sherry further confirmed the town hall will use a hybrid model with Paul O'Regan Hall being the primary location with viewing locations at the Tantallon and Musquodoboit libraries. There is a webpage on HRM's website that will be updated as information is received.

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, has been speaking with Transit and indicated the Access-A-Bus will be available for the town hall, and that you do not have to be an existing client of Access-A-Bus to book it for this event. Myers further indicated that a request has been sent to ASL Interpreting to book their services for the event and hopefully a response from them will come this week.

In response, the Committee noted the importance of having qualified signers, hearing interpreters and deaf interpreters. Members further noted that they would like to see invitations sent out to Provincial Departments and a presentation regarding the Cogswell Project. Questions of clarification were asked around how questions will be addressed at the town hall as well as the process.

Sherry responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

#### **9.1.2 Committee Member Roles at Annual Town Hall**

Sherry confirmed that the Chair will act as MC and Chair for the town hall and Committee members are being sought to act as sighted guides, to check proof of vaccination and to possibly appointment someone to be available to ask questions on behalf of attendees if they so choose.

#### **9.1.3 Staff Update**

Darren Young, Manager of Building Infrastructure, Facility Design & Construction, Corporate & Customer Services advised that a call has been put out to find qualified individuals who are certified under the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Program to complete accessibility audits, with the goal being to build a roster to hire from. Information with respect to this call is available on the tender site under tender number 21-402.

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

#### **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 15, 2021**

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Alicia Wall  
Legislative Support