



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 4, 2022**

PRESENT: Andrew Taylor, Chair
Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Doull
Jordan Waterbury
Kristen Hemming
Michelle Mahoney
Nicole MacDonald
Rachele Manett

REGRETS: Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Paul Russell

STAFF: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Kim Johnson, 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 4:03 p.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Jacki Purcell

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

4. 2022 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

The following was before the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- Advisory Committee on Accessibility in Halifax Regional Municipality 2021 Work Plan
- Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes, May 30, 2022
- Staff Memo dated July 4, 2022

MOVED by Jacki Purcell, seconded by Kristen Hemming

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee suspend sections 83(1) and 83(3) of Administrative Order One to allow members to speak more than two times, and over three minutes on their second round of questions regarding Item 4 - 2022 Work Plan Discussion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant, spoke to the Staff Memo and provided an overview of the process and timelines for development of the Work Plan for the year.

In response to the overview, the Committee discussed the following topics that may inform the development of the 2022 Work Plan:

- Accessible/affordable housing
- Accountability measures for accessibility projects in the Municipality, e.g. Rick Hansen Certification
- Covid-19: protecting immunocompromised populations
- Education and communication: continue work identified in the 2021 Work Plan, including educating the community on accessibility issues, attentive to potential intersection of communication with newcomers
- Home care services, health care
- Infrastructure: accessible public washrooms (numbers, locations, hours of operation); means to provide input on installation of accessible features in parks; impact of restrictions on Drive-Thru services on the peninsula; accessible playgrounds (numbers, locations), including regulations and plans for new/existing playgrounds

- Interpretive services: understanding regulations and requirements for HRM meetings and events; potential for recommending additional interpretive services such as Live Chat
- Parking Services: addressing challenges with accessible parking on-street and in parkades; accessibility issues with payment hot spots; access to accessible parking in winter
- Plain language: implementing plain language in documentation, such as the Committee Terms of Reference
- Social policies: the impact of plastics reduction/bans on those with disabilities
- Transportation: Access-a-Bus services, accessible taxis, sidewalk curbing; regulations for construction projects and their impact on accessibility
- Traffic signage: impacts on signs for those who rely on visual cues

Andrew Taylor stepped down from the Chair at 5:31 p.m. and Jacki Purcell assumed the Chair. Taylor resumed the Chair at 5:40 p.m.

Priority topics resulting from the discussion included accessible parking and transportation in HRM, the impact of construction on accessibility of buildings and infrastructure, and education and communication regarding accessibility in HRM.

Darren Young, Manager, Building Infrastructure, shared that there are several areas in which Facility Design and Construction can support identified priorities, such as providing information on management plans for new construction projects, guided by Red Book standards. Young shared that Parks and Recreation could be engaged to review the interactive parking map, discuss the public washroom and drinking fountain strategy, and share information regarding municipal actions around emergency housing. Public Works may be engaged to provide information on sidewalk and roads audits and resulting action plans.

Sherry noted that they would work with Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO to consolidate the priorities, outline items within HRM jurisdiction and the scope of the Committee's Terms of Reference, and distribute a draft for the Committee's review at the next regular meeting on July 18, 2022.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Kim Johnson
Legislative Support