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Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 12.3.1
Executive Standing Committee
July 12, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: - Original Signed -
Andrew Taylor, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: July 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

ORIGIN

June 21, 2021 special meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Item 9.1.2.

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Elizabeth Doull

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 2017-005-GOV, *Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, Section 17:

Reporting

17. The Committee may make reports to the Executive Standing Committee on the activities of the Committee as necessary, or as requested, together with such other presentations that the Committee may deem advisable.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Executive Standing Committee review and approve the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan as set out in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM (formerly called the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities) was established by the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality in July 1996. The Committee was formed to provide advice to Regional Council on facilitating and promoting the access of all residents to their community, including municipal government, programs and services.

On October 12, 2010, Halifax Regional Council determined that the Accessibility Advisory Committee would report to the Transportation Standing Committee. On August 15, 2017, Halifax Regional Council approved recommendations from a Transportation Standing Committee Report titled, *Reporting Structure and Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee*, which established the Accessibility Advisory Committee as an advisory committee to the Executive Standing Committee.

The Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee are outlined in Administrative Order Number 2017-005-GOV, *Respecting the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality*.

DISCUSSION

At the November 16, 2020 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, an initial discussion took place to identify items of interest that the Committee could include in the 2021 Work Plan. This discussion was revisited at the March 22, 2021 meeting and the Committee selected three priority areas:

- Accessibility of Sidewalks
- Educating the Community on Disability and Accessibility
- Annual Town Hall

Over the course of several meetings, Committee members identified action items, resources, desired outcomes, and time frames for each of the themes within the Work Plan. At the June 21, 2021 meeting, the Committee reviewed the 2021 Work Plan and unanimously passed a motion recommending its approval to the Executive Standing Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The agenda, reports, and minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Accessibility Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

The Executive Standing Committee could request amendments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan to address specific issues or concerns.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902-943-8741.

Attachment 1

Accessibility Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: Progress Tracking
Accessibility of Sidewalks	Section 6(b) & (c)	Expertise of staff members of HRM and community organizations with knowledge about accessibility of sidewalks in the HRM	Have information within 6 months to make recommendations to the Executive Standing Committee	<p>Committee members will acquire information about issues regarding accessibility of sidewalks in the HRM and create a report to Executive Standing Committee detailing the status of accessible sidewalks.</p> <p>Asking Transportation and Public Works, as well as other relevant Business Units, to provide insight on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the standards for accessible sidewalks and crosswalks in the HRM? - Outlining an inventory of sidewalks in the HRM - Who is responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks in the HRM? - When construction impacts the accessibility of sidewalks, what is done to ensure the space is still accessible for people to move through? - What are the rules around closing sidewalks and construction on sidewalks particularly in urban spaces? 	<p>Ongoing: Committee members received presentations from x business units and x organizations.</p> <p>Draft report completed on xx, presented to Executive Standing Committee on xx.</p>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of the differences in accessibility of sidewalks in rural and urban spaces <p>Providing an opportunity for the Committee to give Transportation and Public Works feedback on other relevant Business Units.</p>	
Educating the Community on Disability and Accessibility	Section 6(b) & (c)	Expertise of Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO, other HRM staff members, and organizations in the HRM that advocate for persons with disabilities and prioritize accessibility	By the end of 2021	<p>The committee will hear from Business Units and organizations that advocate for persons with disabilities and provide a recommendation report to Executive Standing Committee on how to communicate this information to HRM residents.</p> <p>Ongoing updates on the Accessibility Strategy</p> <p>Topics of report may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage in the HRM - What education measures already exist in the HRM and what kind of work they are doing - Standards for information shared around disability and accessibility in the work place - How the HRM could incorporate the use of ASL interpreters at all HRM events - Highlighting the differences between rural and urban communities 	<p>Ongoing: Committee members received presentations from xx on xx.</p> <p>Draft report completed on xx, presented to Executive Standing Committee on xx.</p>

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<p>The Annual Town Hall</p>	<p>Section 6(b), (c) & Section 8</p>	<p>Expertise of staff members of the HRM Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO</p> <p>Funding from the Clerk’s Office to organize Annual Town Hall</p> <p>Publicizing and promoting Town Hall from the HRM social media accounts</p>	<p>October/November, 2021</p>	<p>The Town Hall used as an opportunity to provide an update to the entire HRM community on what the Municipality is doing from an accessibility lens. Different Business Units will present on what their Business Units are doing to forward accessibility measures.</p> <p>Action items and considerations for the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which Business Units will present? - What will the agenda look like? - Which partners will be engaged to facilitate an accessible Town Hall for the community? - Incorporation of a look in review (ex: what has been done on snow removal and bus stops?) - Approach libraries for partnership in hosting event - Prioritize accessible spaces with accessible transportation and parking - Recognition of rural/urban differences in access to this town hall and how to accommodate these differences - Engage CART Captioning Services for the event 	<p>Ongoing: Host Annual Town Hall meeting online and in person, x people in attendance, x topics discussed.</p>
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