



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
November 20, 2017**

PRESENT: Ryan Delehanty, Vice Chair
Mikiko Terashima
Zainab Almukhtar
Johanna Stork
Kristine Webber
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Patricia Gates, Chair
Sue Uteck

STAFF: Sally Christie, Supervisor of Regional
Licencing, Building and Compliance
Laughie Rutt, Diversity Consultant
Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern,
Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Darren Young, Project Manager, Operations Support
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, 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 4:05 p.m. and the committee adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Ryan Delehanty called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Barrington Room, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

Role call was taken.

Sally Christie, Supervisor of Regional Licensing, Building and Compliance was introduced to the Committee. They summarized the work done to date. Consultants have been reviewing the current environment and regulations and will report back in February 2018. Pat Gates, Johanna Stork and Laughie Rutt have both been interviewed for this review and they encourage other Committee members to provide their feedback as well. Sally Christie distributed a list of interview topics to the Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 18, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Mikiko Terashima

THAT the minutes of September 18, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mikiko Terashima, seconded by Johanna Stork

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Two-third majority vote required.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES- NONE

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF
INTEREST- NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS-
September 18, 2017**

6.1 Feedback on creating a more accessible community - Laughie Rutt, Diversity Advisor & Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern

Laughie Rutt, Diversity Advisor, provided an update on the Provincial Accessibility Act. This presentation can be found online at halifax.ca. The goal is to establish a fully accessible province by 2030. Gerry Post is the Executive Director of the Accessibility Directorate. The Directorate will be setting specific standards over the next 18 months with the advice of expert panels. They reviewed the areas where standards are being set. The responsibility for implementing many of these standards falls to municipalities and private business.

Laughie Rutt then reviewed the Municipality's Plan. Business units will select accessibility initiatives and activities for budgeting in September 2018. Once the budget is approved by Council they will produce a plan for submission to the public and province in the Spring of 2019. In creating the plan: 12-13 public engagement sessions will be held; 311 collected data will be analysed and surveys will be created. They

clarified for the Committee that survey's will focus on specific topics and segments of interest. Then a framework and reporting model will be developed with a master plan created from the business unit plans. This plan will be updated every 2 years. The Committee can assist by making suggestions to business units, getting the word out and attending community engagement sessions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence- NONE

7.2 Petitions- NONE

7.3 Presentations-NONE

7.3.1 Assessing Halifax and Nova Scotia's Inclusivity and Social Sustainability via Accessibility Policy and Planning – *Siobhan Evans, Masters Student, Dalhousie School of Planning*

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation on Assessing Halifax & Nova Scotia's Social Sustainability & Inclusion via Accessibility Plans & Policies

Siobhan Evans introduced her research project and reviewed its objectives. They reviewed 25 policy documents and plans focusing on two areas: aspects of life and types of disabilities. In sharing the findings, they reviewed strengths and weaknesses of the policies followed by recommendations to improve inclusivity and social sustainability. They offered to share the final report with the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1. STAFF

9.1.1 Facility Accessibility Update - Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction

Darren Young provided an update on current projects:

- Pavilion ramp update
- Replaced Findley Centre lift
- St Margaret Bay washroom renovation has been moved until the spring
- Accessibility updates to Dartmouth North and Musquodoboit Harbour Libraries
- Upgrades to the Power House
- Birch Cove boat launch and beach mats will happen this spring
- Installing many more accessible water stations throughout HRM
- Library audits are complete
- Pool Pod will be installed at Dartmouth Sportsplex, may expand to other centres but cost a consideration

The Committee commented that the Argyle Streetscape project looks great. They have concerns about the floating dock on the waterfront and asked how to address this with the Waterfront Development Corporation. Laughie Rutt noted their concerns with the steep ramp and insufficient railings and will follow up.

9.1.2 2017/18 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, asked that the Committee re-visit the old goal summary as a basis for discussions on their future work plan. This is an opportunity to coordinate efforts with the Office and Diversity and Inclusion. The Committee asked Liam MacSween to go ahead and update the goal

summary for discussion at their December meeting. Under their new terms of reference a Quarterly Report is due to the Executive Standing Committee by March 2018.

9.1.3 Approval of proposed 2018 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 20, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Kristine Webber

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM approve the proposed 2018 meeting scheduled as outlined in attachment one of the staff report dated November 15, 2017.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Planning for 2018 Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility

MOVED by Johanna Stork, seconded by Mikiko Terashima

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM defer this item to the December 2017 Meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – *Johanna Stork*

Johanna Stork reported that the group will hold their 1st meeting next week.

10. ADDED ITEMS-NONE

The Committee had a brief discussion about how they might look at festivals and events in HRM to provide support and advice on accessibility issues. They would like to have this added to the agenda for a future meeting for further discussion.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 18, 2017 - 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support