



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
MINUTES
November 19, 2018**

PRESENT: Patricia Gates, Chair
Ryan Delehanty, Vice Chair
Julia Bremner
Johanna Stork
Jillian Banfield
Kristine Webber
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

REGRETS: Zainab Almuktar

STAFF: Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Kayla Douglas, Accessibility Intern, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

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 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pat Gates, Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax and lead the committee through roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 15, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Julia Bremner

THAT the minutes of October 15, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

MOVED by Kristine Weber, seconded by Julie Bremner

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

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

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Staff Presentation - Sharing Our Stories: Supporting Culture and Heritage in HRM, Renee Kuehnle, Project Manager, Planning and Development

Renee Kuehnle, Project Manager provided an overview of the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan. Highlights of the presentation include:

- The history, scope, and approach to the project to define heritage and culture in HRM.
- Public consultation planning to engage diverse communities on the plan.
- Improvements to initiatives and incentives offered by the municipality for heritage and cultural programs.
- Feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Committee on Accessibility considerations that should be incorporated into the plan.

The Committee provided the following feedback with respect to the presentation provided on the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan:

- Potential engagement with the Blind and Deaf Communities respecting the significance of the Halifax School for the Blind and the Halifax School for the Deaf in the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion.
- Engagement with disability organizations such as the Canadian National Institute of the Blind and Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia as part of the proposed public engagement outreach for the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan.
- Ensuring that venues chosen for public engagement session are held in accessible locations, along transit routes, to ensure that individuals of all abilities can access.
- Appropriate notice for meeting locations to ensure that childcare arrangements can be made and for access-a-bus bookings.

Kuehnle advised that staff will return to the committee with an update on Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan as work progresses.

9.1.2 Staff Presentation – Bicycle Lane Planning Projects – Potential approaches for managing accessible parking impacts - David Maclsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, Transportation and Public Works

David Maclsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, introduced Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner and provided a presentation on potential approaches for managing accessible parking impacts on bicycle lane planning projects. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Examples of recent project planning such as the Hollis/Lower Water Street and Almon Street Projects.
- Accessibility planning for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Shared bicycle and bus stop infrastructure from other jurisdictions.
- Consideration undertaken by staff when moving accessible parking spaces to accommodate bike lanes.
- Accessible parking and protected bike lane configurations.

The Committee provided the following feedback with respect to the presentation:

- The need for tactile surface/clear separation within the bike lane infrastructure to ensure inclusive access the sidewalk.
- Ensure that grading is taken into consideration when developing infrastructure for those with mobility concerns.
- Adequate buffering within accessible parking spaces to deploy a ramp and allow for individuals to safely exit an accessible vehicle.

9.1.3 Update – Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction

Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design and Construction noted participation in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program along with one other member of HRM staff. Young noted that staff will use this training to evaluate the accessibility level of our corporate facilities.

Young further advised of the installation of a lift at Power House and noted that staff has received quotes for a lift at the Oval. Young concluded by noting the Open Door for Everyone session with Reachability and advised of upcoming sessions that may be of interest to the committee.

9.1.4 Update – Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist, Parks and Recreation

Noreen Guptill, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist noted an increase in the amount of children with disabilities attending summer camps. Guptill advised of 428 weekly spots dedicated to inclusion, in which staff were able to accommodate all children who have applied.

Guptill noted that staff is currently focused on inclusion training, and are working with pre-school staff respecting training for children with special needs. Guptill further advised of the purchase of accessible bicycles for the Commons and the potential for an accessibility audit in the near future to determine future needs.

9.1.5 2019 Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Julia Bremner.

THAT the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM adopt the proposed 2019 meeting schedule as outlined in attachment 1 of the staff report dated November 14, 2018.

Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant advised of a correction to the schedule noting that committee will meet on May 28 as opposed to May 27.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group – Johanna Stork

Johanna Stork advised that there was no update as the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group has not met.

9.2.2 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Jillian Banfield

Jillian Banfield provided an overview of the October 18, 2018 Active Transportation Committee meeting noting presentation from the Active Transportation Planning Group, a presentation on the Downtown and Almon Street Bikeways project, and a presentation provided by Halifax Regional Police on lowering speed limits.

Banfield advised of an accessibility concern in the terminology used in the forms used by traffic officers to report traffic accidents. Banfield advised that the form refers to “disability” as a potential cause of motor vehicle accidents. Banfield advised that the officer who provided the presentation advised that the form utilized is out of date and noted that the concern will be brought forward to senior management to be corrected. Banfield further advised that follow up will take place on the matter.

10. ADDED ITEMS

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 17, 2018 (if required) - 4:00 p.m., Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant