



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM  
Minutes  
February 24, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Victoria Levack, Chair  
Andrew Taylor, Vice Chair  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn  
Elizabeth Doull  
Leslie Gates  
Aja Joshi  
Nicole MacDonald  
Jacki Purcell

**REGRETS:** Samantha Horne  
Councillor Richard Zurawski

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Elora Wilkinson, Project Manager  
Lynn Llewellyn, Manager of Operations, Halifax Transit  
Darren Young, Corporate Facility Design & Construction  
Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor  
Liam MacSween, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Judith Ng'ethe, 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 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:34 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Victoria Levack called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 20, 2020**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the minutes of January 20, 2020 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

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

The Committee changed the Order of Business to consider Item 9.1.1 - HRM Board and Committee Orientation – Liam MacSween, Acting Deputy Municipal Clerk/Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion as the first order of business.

MOVED by Victoria Levack, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-thirds majority vote required

**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**

**6.1 – December 16, 2019 – Appointment of Member Representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Motion:**

Alicia Wall, Legislative Support called for nominations for the position of member representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Jacki Purcell

**THAT the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM nominate Andrew Taylor to serve as the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM representative on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years.**

Andrew Taylor accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence - NONE**

**7.2 Petitions - NONE**

**7.3 Presentations - NONE**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## 9. REPORTS

### 9.1 STAFF

#### 9.1.1 HRM Board and Committee Orientation – Liam MacSween, Acting Deputy Municipal Clerk/ Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Liam MacSween, Acting Municipal Clerk took the floor to present the Committee orientation.

MacSween displayed a flow chart showing the HRM decision making process and advised that the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM makes recommendations to the Executive Standing Committee. The role of the Advisory Committee is to advise as per its Terms of Reference. There are instances in which the Committee is directed by the Chief Administrative Officer to advise a Business Unit on accessible issues.

MacSween spoke to the following points:

- Role of the Chair;
- The importance of transparency;
- The process for adding agenda items; and
- Provided an overview of a typical meeting agenda.

Attention was drawn to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor took the floor to present.

Myers acknowledged that we are on unceded Mi'kmaq territory.

Myers spoke to the areas of focus for Diversity and Inclusion Office which include training, accessibility and inclusion services, local Immigration partnership with federal governments and urban indigenous services.

Myers stated the role of Diversity and Inclusion is to advise and support the business units of HRM, promote diversity and inclusion, provide diversity and inclusion training and to advise on corporate policies through diversity and inclusion lens. They further provided a definition for diversity and a definition for inclusion.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

#### 9.1.2 Staff Presentation – Spring Garden Road Streetscaping Accessibility Audit Presentation – Elora Wilkinson, Project Manager

Elora Wilkinson took the floor to present.

Wilkinson confirmed that a preliminary accessibility audit of the proposed schematic design has been completed. The audit compares the schematic design and existing conditions with CSA Built Environment Standards, the CNIB "Clearing Our Path" guidelines and Universal Design best practices.

Some of the elements assessed include accessible parking spots, pavement/sidewalk treatment, lighting, Transit stop design and street furniture. Some of the changes being proposed include most left turns being prohibited and loading being moved to side streets. One loading zone will be kept in front of McDonalds for quick drop offs and the taxi stand will be relocated.

Spring Garden Road currently has four parking spots, one of them being an accessible spot. The proposal would see more accessible spots located on the corners of the street for consistency. The current accessible spot in front the old Le Chateau has been relocated around the corner to Birmingham Street.

Wilkinson recognized the importance of maintaining a tonal contrast between the amenity zone and the path of travel for seeing impaired individuals, as well as tactile walking surface indicators at crossing points and Transit boarding areas. Appropriate street lighting is also being looked at.

Wilkinson noted that the public wants to see greenery on Spring Garden Road and raised crosswalks have been raised are being investigated.

Members responded to the presentation. The following points and clarification were noted:

- Members would like to see diversity in the types of seating;
- The Committee stated the importance of clear sidewalks with no impediments; and
- Better accessible parking spot enforcement was required.

### **9.1.3 Update – Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

Myers stated that the Accessibility Strategy has been circulated to HRM business unit Directors for comment and the feedback will be reviewed upon receipt.

## **11. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Alicia Wall, Legislative Support called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn, seconded by Aja Joshi

**That Victoria Levack be nominated as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.**

Victoria Levack accepted the nomination.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Alicia Wall, Legislative Support called three more times for any further nominations. There being none, Victoria Levack was declared Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

Victoria Levack, Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

MOVED BY Elizabeth Doull, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

**That Andrew Taylor be nominated as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.**

Andrew Taylor accepted the nomination.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

Victoria Levack, Chair called three more times for any further nominations. There being none, Andrew Taylor was declared Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – March 23, 2020 – 4:00 p.m. - Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Alicia Wall  
Legislative Support