



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
SPECIAL MEETING
September 28, 2020**

PRESENT: Victoria Levack, Chair
Andrew Taylor, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillor Richard Zurawski
Elizabeth Doull
Samantha Horne
Leslie Gates
Aja Joshi
Nicole MacDonald
Jacki Purcell

STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager Facility Construction and Design
David Nantau, Supervisor Bus Operations, AAB Operations
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Robyn Dean, 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 adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 24, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Aja Joshi

THAT the minutes of February 24, 2020 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Aja Joshi

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1. Correspondence was received from B. Bessette and M. Khazanavicius, dated May 25, 2020 and was circulated to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the information shared regarding audible pedestrian signals, highlighting the survey results which indicated that one-third of these signals are not functioning as expected. The Chair will reach out to staff for further investigation into the matter.

7.1.2. Correspondence was received from M. Williams, dated July 27, 2020 and was circulated to the Committee.

The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to forward this correspondence to staff with the traffic authority for their information. Members would be interested in having a staff presentation on this topic at a future meeting.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Staff Presentation – HRM Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation dated September 28, 2020
- A handout of draft action items dated September 28, 2020

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor Office of Diversity and Inclusion, gave a presentation to the Committee. A copy of this presentation is on file.

Myers noted that the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act was passed into legislation in 2017. Two of the requirements include the creation of an Accessibility Advisory Committee, which HRM has in place, and an Accessibility Plan implemented by each city or municipality. HRM held public consultations which focused on three main themes: transportation, recreation and buildings. The organization's business units also completed an accessibility questionnaire with 21 divisions responding. Feedback noted the need for improvement on accessibility services and initiatives, and disability community engagement.

The Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy follows HRM's Diversity and Inclusion Framework. The five main goals of the framework are: inclusive public service; safe, respectful and inclusive work environment; equitable employment; meaningful partnerships; and accessible information and communication. Myers detailed the proposed action items which follow HRM's framework and align with the NS Accessibility Act.

Myers responded to questions from the Committee. The timeframe following each recommended action item suggests the time needed to complete the action acknowledging that they will not all be implemented at once. Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, noted that the draft plan will be reviewed by HRM Business Units, their Directors, and the Chief Administrative Officer. Staff are presenting to the Committee today looking for their support on the direction and confirmation that they are on the right track. The Committee noted that all actions should address intellectual, learning, and cognitive abilities as well as physical abilities.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blackburn, seconded by Jacki Purcell

THAT the Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM accept the draft recommendations as presented and endorse staff moving forward with implementation of the HRM Accessibility and Inclusion Strategy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Aja Joshi informed the Committee that Mental Health Awareness Week is being held from October 4th-10th. There are many activities planned, including a series of webinars which may be of interest to members. Joshi will provide the Legislative Assistant with a link for further information to be shared with Committee members.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 16, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support