



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 22, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Acting Chair  
June Feswick, Vice Chair  
Councillor Trish Purdy  
Councillor Paul Russell  
April Adams  
Elizabeth Doull  
Jordan Waterbury  
Michelle Mahoney  
Rachele Manett

**STAFF:** Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor  
Annie Sherry, Public Appointments Coordinator  
Elizabeth Macdonald, 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Committee agreed to begin the meeting with member Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon acting as Chair.

Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

**1.1 Special Acknowledgement for Andrew Taylor**

Deputy Mayor Deagle Gammon, Acting Chair noted the recent passing of former Chair, Andrew Taylor and acknowledged their contributions to the Committee and their work as an advocate for the disability community.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 26, 2024**

MOVED by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**THAT the minutes of February 26, 2024 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Councillor Purdy

**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 – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence – None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentations – None**

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

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 HRM Accessibility Strategy Consultation**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated April 18, 2024

Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor gave a presentation and received feedback from the Committee regarding Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) Accessibility Strategy on the following themes: Public Transportation, Built Environment, Goods & Services, Information & Communication and Employment.

In considering the Public Transportation theme, the Committee noted barriers accessing and using Halifax Transit, an interest in receiving a presentation from staff on snow clearance practices at a future meeting, booking challenges and delays related to Access-A-Bus, the need to expand locations where transit tickets can be purchased, the Moving Forward Together Plan and experiences using mobility aids in public transit.

In considering the Built Environment theme, the Committee noted the importance of handrails on Municipal paths, accessibility concerns at Queen's Marque and Municipal parks, steps that can be taken to make HRM buildings more accessible and the importance of providing accessibility training to all HRM staff.

In considering the Goods & Services theme, the Committee noted accessibility as it relates to Planning & Development, the Province of Nova Scotia's Access by Design 2030 framework, the diverse needs of those with disabilities, the barriers of online services and services provided by 311.

In considering the Information & Communication theme, the Committee noted the benefits of live chat features, the importance of plain language on signage and community engagement as it relates to social media.

In considering the Employment theme, the Committee noted the importance of employer flexibility when accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities and delegating duties to suit individual needs.

Myers responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – NONE**

**9.3 STAFF UPDATES – NONE**

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 13, 2024**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald  
Legislative Assistant