



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 27, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrew Taylor, Chair
Jacki Purcell, Vice Chair
Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon
Councillor Trish Purdy
Councillor Paul Russell
Nicole McDonald
Elizabeth Doull
Kristen Hemming
Michelle Mahoney
Rachele Manett

REGRETS: Jordan Waterbury

STAFF: Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity & Inclusion/African
Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office
Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant
Lama Farhat, 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 4:04 p.m. The Committee adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 24, November 14, and November 17, 2022

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Purdy

THAT the minutes of October 24, November 14 and November 17, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Rachele Manett, seconded by Kristen Hemming

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, the Committee added the following:

- Item 9.2 Committee Member Updates
 - 9.2.1 Regional Council Updates
 - 9.2.2 HRM Budget Process

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 Presentation – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- Proposed 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Councillor Deagle Gammon, seconded by Councillor Russell

THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee approved the proposed 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee schedule as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Government Relations and External Affairs Presentation – Research and Engage NS

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated February 27, 2023

Conor O’Dea, Senior Policy Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs and Fatemeh Faraz, Regulatory Modernization Analyst gave a presentation on potential partnership opportunities between Engage Nova Scotia and Research Nova Scotia and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. O’Dea provided clarification regarding the project’s goals and timeline, the implementation process, and the legislative and procedural considerations.

In response to the presentation, the Committee provided input on potential research themes such as affordable and accessible housing, homelessness, and transportation and signage that would require an intergovernmental and collaborative approach. The Committee discussed the need for a more consistent definition of disability across all levels of government and further accommodation and consideration for persons with disability residing in rural areas.

9.1.3 Park Lighting Strategy Presentation

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated February 27, 2023

Stephen Cushing, Landscape Architect, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the extent of the strategy.

Members of the Committee provided the following feedback:

- Illumination for physical paths, transition pathways and park entrances;
- Illumination in relation to public safety within parks;
- Fixture designs, pole lengths, and anti-glare;
- Considerations for illumination in relation to terrain type, inclines/slopes and surface materials;
- Consideration for Rick Hansen Certification;
- Prioritization of parks with existing accessibility features.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS UPDATES

9.2.1 Regional Council Update

Councillor Deagle Gammon provided a summary of the actions and decisions made on the January 24, 2023 meeting of Regional Council regarding the Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry.

9.2.2 HRM Budget Process

Committee members discussed the addition of an agenda item for the March 20, 2023 meeting regarding the participation of the Committee in the Municipality’s Budget process and expressed interest in sending a letter to the Budget Committee outlining concerns and Budget items they would like to see prioritized.

Councillor Russell, Councillor Deagle Gammon and Annie Sherry, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the Municipality’s Budget process and the scope of increases and reductions that the Budget Committee could consider. It was explained that that Committee members could speak during public participation at Budget meetings or contact individual councillors if they were unable to attend.

9.3 STAFF UPDATES - NONE

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 20, 2023

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Lama Farhat
Legislative Assistant