Tuesday, June 14, 2016

**Members Present:**
City Councillor G. Dhillon – Wards 9 and 10, Chair
City Councillor P. Fortini – Wards 7 and 8, Vice Chair

**Broker Representatives:**
Milton Bhangoo
Makhan Dhother
Joe Farrugia

**Plate Owner Representatives:**
Louis Gotzamanis
Amarjit Grewal
Zafar Tariq
Jaswant Uppal

**Driver Representatives:**
Daljit Gill
Lynn Slade

**Citizen Representatives:**
Ravinder Chahal

**Accessibility Advisory Committee Representative:**
Raymond Shaver

**Members Absent:**
Avtar Grewal, Broker Representative – regrets
Rajinder Rai, Driver Representative
Sushil Ninawat, Citizen Representative – regrets

**Staff Present:**
**Corporate Services:**
John Avbar, Director, Enforcement and By-law Services
James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement
Earl Evans, Deputy City Clerk
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator
The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. and adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

   The following motion was considered.

   TC013-2016 That the agenda for the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of June 14, 2016 be approved as printed and circulated.

   Carried

2. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – nil**

3. **Previous Minutes**

   3.1. **Minutes – Taxicab Advisory Committee – April 19, 2016**

   The minutes were considered by the Corporate Services Committee on May 4, 2016 and the recommendations were approved by Council on May 11, 2016. The minutes were provided for Committee’s information.

4. **Delegations/Presentations – nil**

5. **Reports – nil**

6. **Other/New Business**

   6.1. Discussion at the request of Milton Bhangoo, Committee Member, re: **Reduction of the Taxi Plate Transfer Fee**.

   Committee discussion took place regarding the fee to transfer a Taxicab Owner licence, as follows:
   - Opinions/concerns that Brampton’s fee to transfer a Taxicab Owner licence is too high and should be reduced
   - Request for information regarding similar fees in surrounding municipalities
   - Indication from staff that licensing fees were reviewed in 2014
   - Questions regarding the establishment of a reduced fee for transferring a licence to a spouse, sibling, child or corporation
• Concerns regarding automatic increases to licensing fees by the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index
• Justification of licensing fees (e.g. cost recovery)
• Request that transfer fees be reviewed

The following motion was considered.

TC014-2016

1. That staff be requested to review fees for Taxicab Owner Licence transfers, including actual costs for the administration of such transfers, for possible adjustments and a recommendation to a future Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting; and,

2. That staff review the possible elimination of the CPI increase on taxi licensing fees, and on any other mobile industry in which set rates are regulated by the City.

Carried

6.2. Discussion at the request of Joe Farrugia, Committee Member, re: Licensing Extensions for Accessible Taxicabs.

Joe Farrugia, Committee member, provided information on the costs associated with operating, maintaining and insuring accessible taxicabs. Mr. Farrugia advised that these costs are higher than those for regular taxicabs and requested a one-year extension to the eligible vehicle model year for accessible taxicabs.

Committee discussion took place with respect to the following:
• Cost of operating an accessible taxicab
• Provisions of the Mobile Licensing By-law relating to eligible vehicle model years
• Concern that the condition of commercial vehicles declines faster than personal vehicles
• Vehicle inspection requirements for accessible taxicabs under the Highway Traffic Act
• Suggestions to permit one additional model year for accessible taxicabs
• Possible model year extension for regular taxicabs and a suggestion that this matter not be considered at this time
• Staff considerations of the request for a model year extension for accessible taxicabs (e.g. review of practices in other jurisdictions, condition/maintenance of vehicles)
• Indication that currently only three accessible taxicabs have a 2007 model year and no longer meet the requirements of the by-law
The following motion was considered.

TC015-2016 That it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee that the eligible vehicle model year for accessible taxicabs be extended by one year, in recognition of costs, including insurance costs, to operate these vehicles.

Carried

6.3. Discussion, re: Municipal Decisions Regarding Transportation Network Companies (TNC).

City Councillor Dhillon, Chair, outlined the purpose of providing Committee members with information on various municipal decisions relating to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and highlighted the importance for members to provide their input and make suggestions on how Brampton should proceed.

Committee discussion took place with respect to the following:

- The need to simplify the process and reduce costs to become a licenced taxicab driver
  - Indication that driver training courses are expensive and not required by the City of Toronto
  - Indication that it is easier and less expensive to become an Uber driver
- Modifying the taxicab industry to compete with Uber
- Suggestion to eliminate the requirement for taxi drivers to:
  - complete the driver training program
  - complete a by-law “knowledge” exam
  - have working knowledge of the English language
- Questions regarding Uber-related enforcement activity
- Request that Committee members review the decisions of other municipalities regarding TNCs, and bring forward options for consideration at a future Committee meeting
- Lack of taxicab stands at Bramalea City Centre and the need to address this issue
- The need to establish long and short term goals
- Taxicab driver licence requirements in the City of Toronto
- Suggestions for possible changes to the taxi tariff and an indication that further discussion on this matter would take place at a future meeting:
  - eliminate a minimum; establish a maximum
  - establish a range that may fluctuate during the day
In response to questions from Committee, staff advised that:

- Uber has not requested, and would not be eligible to receive, a taxi brokerage licence
- Information regarding Uber-related enforcement activities cannot be provided at this time

The following motion was considered.

TC016-2016 That the following suggestions of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, relating to taxicab driver licensing requirements, be referred to staff for review and consultation with Legal Services staff, and to report back to a future Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting:

- That the requirement to complete a driver training program be eliminated; and,
- That only a driver’s abstract and criminal record search be required.

Carried

6.4. Discussion, re: **Next Meeting Date / 2016 Meeting Schedule**.

There was Committee consensus that the next meeting would be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

7. **Correspondence – nil**

8. **Information Items – nil**

9. **Question Period**

1. In response to a question from Zafar Tariq, Committee Member, as to when staff will be reporting back on their review of Uber, James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, provided information on the review process/activities (e.g. industry feedback, public survey) and indicated that a report is expected to be completed in October 2016.
2. In response to a question from Milton Bhangoo, Committee Member, regarding the number of charges laid against Uber drivers, John Avbar, Director, Enforcement and By-law Services, Corporate Services, indicated he had no information to provide on this issue.

In response to a further question from Mr. Bhangoo regarding the number of charges laid against taxicab drivers, Mr. Bisson advised that he would review this request and provide a response.

10. **Public Question Period** – nil

11. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered.

TC017-2016 That the Taxicab Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Carried

City Councillor G. Dhillon, Chair