Tuesday, November 08, 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
Avtar Grewal

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

Driver Representatives:
Daljit Gill
Rajinder Rai

Citizen Representatives:
Ravinder Chahal
Sushil Ninawat

Accessibility Advisory Committee Representative:
(nil)

Members Absent:
Raymond Shaver, AAC Representative – regrets
Lynn Slade, Driver Representative

Staff Present:
Paul Morrison, Director, Enforcement and By-law Services, Corporate Services
James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk’s Office
The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. and adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

   The following motion was considered.

   TC018-2016 That the agenda for the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of November 8, 2016 be approved, as amended, to add the following item:

   4.1. Delegation from Narinder S. Pandher, Taxicab Plate Owner, re: **Suggestions for Consideration by the Taxicab Advisory Committee relating to:**
   - Formula for issuing taxi plates
   - Driver training requirements
   - By-law requirements for taxicab plates

   Carried

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

3. **Previous Minutes**


   The minutes were considered by Corporate Services Committee on September 7, 2016 and the recommendations were approved by Council on September 14, 2016. The minutes were provided for Committee’s information.

4. **Delegations/Presentations**

   4.1. Delegation from Narinder S. Pandher, Taxicab Plate Owner, re: **Suggestions for Consideration by the Taxicab Advisory Committee relating to:**
   - Formula for issuing taxi plates
   - Driver training requirements
   - By-law requirements for taxicab plates

   Item 7.2 was brought forward and dealt with at this time.

   Mr. Narinder S. Pandher addressed Committee regarding the suggestions outlined in his correspondence and provided the following:
• The formula for the issuance of taxi plates should be reviewed immediately as a result of the decline in the taxicab industry
• Taxicab driver training requirements should be eliminated from the Mobile Licensing By-law
• Timelines relating to the keeping of taxi plates that are not in service should be eliminated

The following motion was considered.

TC019-2016 That the delegation and correspondence from Narinder S. Pandher, Taxicab Plate Owner, to the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of November 8, 2016, re: Suggestions for Consideration by the Taxicab Advisory Committee relating to:
• Formula for issuing taxi plates
• Driver training requirements
• By-law requirements for taxicab plates; be received.

Carried

5. **Reports** – nil

6. **Other/New Business**


Item 6.2 was brought forward and dealt with at this time.

James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, provided information with respect to:
• the provisions in the Mobile Licensing By-law relating to the keeping of a Taxicab Owner Licence (taxi plate) that is not in service
• the process relating to the annual issuance of taxi plates, including:
  o calculation of the formula used to determine the number of plates to be issued annually
  o weighting of the four criteria in the formula
  o statistical information on the factors within the four criteria and how this impacted the 2016 results
• the request to suspend taxicab driver training requirements

Mr. Bisson advised that, based on the calculation of the formula, an additional three plates are to be issued in 2016.
Committee discussion took place with respect to the following:

- Number of issued taxi plates that are currently not in service due to a decline in business
- Relevancy of factors used to calculate the formula
- Provisions in the Mobile Licensing By-law relating to the renewal of expired Taxicab Owner Licences
- Request to eliminate taxicab driver training requirements from the by-law
- Varying opinions regarding the removal of the requirement that every applicant for a Taxicab Driver’s Licence have a working knowledge of the English language
  - Process for assessing an applicant’s knowledge of the English language
  - Confirmation from staff that both the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga conduct English language assessments
  - Indication that the City of Toronto does conduct an English language assessment
  - Concerns that removing this requirement may negatively impact customer service in the taxi industry

Mr. Bisson suggested that the requirement for taxicab driver applicants to have a working knowledge of the English language not be removed from the by-law.

The following motion was introduced:

That, it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee that:

1. Council suspend the Mobile Licensing By-law requirements for training and the written exam for a Taxicab Driver’s Licence to allow the industry an opportunity to attract potential applicants who are currently applying for licences in the City of Toronto.
2. Council suspend the requirement for applicants to demonstrate a working knowledge of the English Language.
3. Applicants for Taxicab Driver Licences continue to be required to meet the Threshold Policy of the Mobile Licensing By-law pertaining to driver records and criminal records.
4. Council suspend the issuance from the Priority List resulting from the 2016 review of the formula for the issuance of Taxicab Owner Licences (Plates) from the Priority List (reviewed years 2014 & 2015) pending the review of the Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014.

Committee discussion took place with respect to the motion above, as follows:

- Committee consensus that the issuance of three plates in 2016 not be suspended and that any future issuance of plates be placed on hold pending completion of the formula review
• Indication that the results of the formula reflect the decline in business in the taxicab industry
• The need to review the formula and adjust the factors in each of the four criteria
  o It was noted that some factors are no longer relevant to the industry and should be removed
  o A suggestion was submitted that a sub-committee be established to review the formula. (There was no consensus to establish a sub-committee)
• Indication from staff that a draft policy addressing Public Transportation Companies (PTCs) will be presented to the Taxicab Advisory Committee for consideration at the next meeting

An amendment to the motion above was introduced to replace clause 4 with the following:

4. That, it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, that a workshop of the Taxicab Advisory Committee be conducted to review the factors and weighting of the formula for the issuance of Taxicab Owner Licences (Plates) from the Priority List and that the 2017 plate issuance review be placed on hold pending completion of the review of the formula.

The motion was split and voted on as follows.

TC020-2016 That, it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, that a by-law be passed to amend Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014, as amended, to suspend the requirements for training and the written exam for a Taxicab Driver’s Licence to allow the industry an opportunity to attract potential applicants who are currently applying for licences in the City of Toronto.

Carried

TC021-2016 That, it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, that a by-law be passed to amend Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014, as amended, to suspend the requirement for applicants to demonstrate a working knowledge of the English Language.

Carried
TC022-2016 That applicants for Taxicab Driver Licences continue to be required to meet the Threshold Policy of the Mobile Licensing By-law pertaining to driver records and criminal records.

Carried

TC023-2016 That, it is the position of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, that a workshop of the Taxicab Advisory Committee be conducted to review the factors and weighting of the formula for the issuance of Taxicab Owner Licences (Plates) from the Priority List and that the 2017 plate issuance review be placed on hold pending completion of the review of the formula.

Carried

TC024-2016 That the following verbal updates from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, to the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of November 8, 2016, be received:

- 2016 Review of the Formula for the Issuance of Taxicab Owner’s Licences (Plates) from the Priority List (reviewed years 2014 & 2015); and,
- Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendation TC016-2016.

Carried

6.2. Verbal Update from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, re: Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendation TC016-2016.

Dealt with under Item 6.1 – See Recommendations TC020-2016 to TC024-2016

7. Correspondence

7.1. Correspondence from Chris Schafer, Uber Public Policy Manager - Canada, Uber Canada, dated June 27, 2016, re: Uber Response to Correspondence Items on the March 29, 2016 and April 19, 2016 Taxicab Advisory Committee Agendas.

The following motion was considered.
TC025-2016  That the correspondence from Chris Schafer, Uber Public Policy Manager - Canada, Uber Canada, dated June 27, 2016, to the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of November 8, 2016, re: Uber Response to Correspondence Items on the March 29, 2016 and April 19, 2016 Taxicab Advisory Committee Agendas be received.  

Carried

7.2.  Correspondence from Narinder S. Pandher, Plate Owner, Taxicab Industry, re: Suggestions for Consideration by the Taxicab Advisory Committee relating to:  
   - Formula for issuing taxi plates  
   - Driver training requirements  
   - Taxi plate by-law requirements

   Deal with under Item 4.1 – Recommendation TC019-2016

8.  Information Items

8.1.  Taxicab Advisory Committee – 2017 Schedule of Meetings

   There was Committee consensus that the 2017 Taxicab Advisory Committee meetings commence at 1:00 p.m.

9.  Question Period

   1. In response to a question from Zafar Tariq, Committee Member, James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, clarified the process for maintaining a Taxicab Owner Licence (Plate) when it is not in service.

   2. In response to a question from Louis Gotzamanis, Committee Member, James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, explained the challenges in the City facilitating a process to publicize the availability of plates for use. Mr. Bisson advised that plates may be advertised by owners through other means.

   3. In response to a question from Committee regarding the possibility of distributing the Taxicab Advisory Committee agendas to members earlier, City Councillor Dhillon, Chair, advised that staff will review this request.
10. **Public Question Period – nil**

11. **Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, City Councillor Dhillon, Chair, advised Committee members of the need to prepare for Committee meetings in order to ensure each meeting is productive and advances the objectives of the Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC). Councillor Dhillon suggested that, as industry leaders, members should endeavour to propose recommendations for change for consideration by the Committee. In addition, Councillor Dhillon encouraged members to discuss industry-related issues with their fellow TAC members and Council representatives on the Committee.

The following motion was considered.

TC026-2016 That the Taxicab Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on February 28, 2017 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

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City Councillor G. Dhillon, Chair