



P.O. Box 1749
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Item No. 12.1.1
Executive Standing Committee
December 16, 2019

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: - Original Signed -
John Traves QC, Director Legal, Municipal Clerk & External Affairs

 - Original Signed -
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 4, 2019

SUBJECT: **Women’s Advisory Committee – Establish a Staff Board**

ORIGIN

Motion passed on November 26, 2019, Regional Council to approve an Administrative Order, establishing the Women’s Advisory Committee (WAC).

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Public Appointment Policy - Governing citizen appointments to HRM agencies, boards, committees, commissions, and external bodies approved by Halifax Regional Council in August 2011.

6.2 Staff Review

When establishing a new board, committee, or agency or making appointments for a new term to a board, agency, or committee where Council has designated a specific expertise or skills set, a staff board may be requested to review the applications.

The staff board will apply the Public Appointment policy and the board-specified qualifications, as approved by Council, to reach a consensus on how each applicant demonstrates qualification for the position.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council establish a staff board, pursuant to Section 6.2 of the Public Appointment Policy, consisting of the Managing Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Advisor from Diversity and Inclusion, a representative from the Municipal Clerk’s Office, and the Chief Administrative Officer or their designate, to review applications to the Women’s Advisory Committee, and disclose to the Executive Standing Committee any relevant evaluations or references that may have been conducted.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Women's Advisory Committee is to advise the Municipality on the impact of municipal policies, programs, and services on women. On November 26, 2019, Regional Council approved an Administrative Order to establish the Committee.

Committee Composition – 10 Members

Two (2) members of Council (on being a member of the Executive Standing Committee).

Eight (8) women with at least one woman from each of the rural, suburban, and urban areas of the Municipality. The Committee shall include women from the following communities:

- (a) African Nova Scotian and Black communities;
- (b) Indigenous/aboriginal communities;
- (c) LGBTQ2S+ communities;
- (d) Immigrant communities;
- (e) Women with disabilities, and
- (f) Francophone/Acadian community.

DISCUSSION

Recruitment for the Women's Advisory Committee will occur during the month of January. As the Committee is new and strives to achieve a diverse composition, it is recommended that a staff board be convened to review and present the applications to the Executive Standing Committee.

It is recommended that the staff board consist of the Managing Director of Diversity and Inclusion, an Advisor from Diversity and Inclusion, a representative from the Municipal Clerk's Office, and the Chief Administrative Officer or their designate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications to this report that are not already included in the Operating Budget.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Not applicable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A recruitment campaign will be conducted in accordance with the Public Appointment Policy, by the Municipal Clerk's Office during the month of January. The campaign will consist of print, (newspaper and poster campaign), social media, and a direct email-campaign with groups that worked with staff during the Diverse Voices for Change, Federation of Canadian Municipalities project completed in HRM.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

ALTERNATIVES

The Executive Standing Committee could choose not to direct staff to form a staff review board. However, this is not recommended due to the geographic and diversity requirements to the Women's Advisory Committee composition.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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