

HALIFAX

Reviewing the Role of Agencies, Boards, and Commissions (ABCs) in HRM Governance

June 17, 2024

Context

- Public Participation in Canadian Municipal Government
- Reflecting Diverse Community Perspectives
- Role of Agencies Board and Committees (ABCs) in HRM Governance Structure
- Emphasis for Need for Meaningful Influence and Impact

Evolution of HRM Governance

- Increase in Internal ABCs Over Past Decade
- Challenges of Coordination and Resource Allocation
- Utilization of Alternative forms for Public Engagement

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Legislative Impact: Bill 137

- Restrictions on ABCs' Recommendations, Particularly in Planning
- Operational Efficiency vs. Decision-Making Process Impacts
- In effect until April 22, 2025

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Origin - June 20, 2023

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review and provide recommendations on:

1. All boards, committees and commissions that include citizen volunteers, in an effort to reduce duplication, close gaps and increase efficiencies and resources optimization, and;
2. All standing committees of council, looking at the terms of reference, especially their duties, responsibilities, administration, and procedures, looking for improvements, efficiencies, and work that flows to Council.

Phased Approach

Phase	Overview	Timeline
1	Implementation Plan and Advisory Committee Review	Spring 2024
2	Standing Committee Review, Framework for Lived Experience Committees, Legislative Amendments and Committee Procedures Administrative Order	Summer / Fall 2024
3	Guidelines when creating a new Committee	Winter 2025
4	Review of the Councillor Appointment process	Prior to November 2026

Phase 1 Process

- Inventory and Analysis of ABCs
- Engagement with HRM staff on the role and structure of ABC's
- Survey of ABC membership on role and effectiveness of ABC process
- Evaluation of 11 ABC terms of reference and current state including historical context

Recommendations

Review and Amend Terms of Reference

- Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee

Commence the process to dissolve

- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee
- Regional Watershed Advisory Committee
- Western Common Advisory Committee
- All Planning Advisory Committees (5 total)

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HRM Parks Advisory Committee

- Motion – June 17, 2021 from CPED Standing Committee
- Included in Phase 1 of the Governance Review
- Recommendation – not pursue

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Next Steps

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