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Item No. Information Item 2
Executive Standing Committee
May 26, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

FROM: Mapfumo Chidzonga, Chair, African Descent Advisory Committee

DATE: April 23, 2025

SUBJECT: African Descent Advisory Committee – 2023/24 Annual Report

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Initiated by the African Descent Advisory Committee through the Legislative Assistant.

BACKGROUND

On May 9, 2023, Halifax Regional Council approved Administrative Order 2021-004-GOV *Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality* to establish the African Descent Advisory Committee. The African Descent Advisory Committee reports to the Executive Standing Committee and advises the Municipality on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services for People of African Descent.

The current membership is available on [Halifax.ca](https://www.halifax.ca)

DISCUSSION

The African Decent Advisory Committee met 10 times between September 11, 2023 and November 20, 2024 virtually over zoom and in-person at the HEMDCC Meeting Space.

- September 11, 2023
- November 9, 2023
- January 10, 2024
- February 8, 2024
- March 21, 2024
- May 9, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- August 15, 2024
- September 4, 2024
- November 20, 2024

The African Descent Advisory Committee's business for the period covering September 11, 2023 and November 20, 2024 includes the following:

- 2 external presentations from members of the public
- 9 Committee led discussions
- 3 staff presentations
- 9 staff updates
- 2 staff reports
- 2 motions passed

The work of the African Descent Advisory Committee within the first year was devoted to formulating and concluding their Work Plan. The African Descent Advisory Committee approved their 2024/25 Work Plan on April 10, 2025. The 2024/25 Work Plan was subsequently approved by the Executive Standing Committee on April 28, 2025. The African Descent Advisory Committee identified their 4 core values, 7 areas of commitment and 3 actionable priorities.

The Committee passed the below recommendation to Executive Standing Committee:

Africville

Motion approved that the African Descent Advisory Committee recommends that Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to research, beginning with the Campbell Road, using available municipal resources and other information provided to the Municipality, to understand the history of Africville up to February 24, 2010, the apology date.

African Nova Scotian Representation in the Halifax Regional Police

Motion approved that the African Descent Advisory Committee recommends that Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to request a staff report on:

1. The representation of people of African Nova Scotian descent in the Halifax Regional Police force;
2. The status of the all-African descent cadet class of 1993;
3. An understanding of education provided to all officers around systemic racism and all matters; and
4. That the staff report be provided to the African Nova Scotian Descent Advisory Committee for review and possible recommendation.

Additionally, the Committee has a standing agenda item to receive staff updates on the work of the African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office at each meeting and a standing information report titled Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant re: Requests to Present to the African Descent Advisory Committee.

The activities of the African Descent Advisory Committee are guided by the Administrative Order 2021-004-GOV *Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, and by the approved African Descent Advisory Committee 2024/25 Work Plan.

Further information on the Summary of Activities is outlined in the Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications identified.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk consideration identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The African Descent Advisory Committee is comprised of eleven citizen members and 2 Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications identified.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order 2021-004-GOV Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality Terms of Reference section 19:

Reporting

19. The Committee shall submit a written report of activities annually to the Executive Standing Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Summary of Activities.

Report Prepared by: Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.478.2408

ATTACHMENT 1

As the Committee worked to identify their priorities, values and commitments for their workplan, they received presentations and updates from community members, groups and organizations, Committee Members, and HRM staff. The below is a summary of the activities of the Committee from September 11, 2023 to November 20, 2024.

Date	Topic	Committee Member	HRM Staff Presenter	Community Presenter
September 11, 2023	Review of Terms of Reference		Tracey Grant-Jones, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion	
November 9, 2023	How Municipal Government Works	Lindell Smith	Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk	
	African Nova Scotian Representation in the Halifax Regional Police	Darryl Johnson		
	Future Agenda Planning Discussion	Andrew Howe		
January 10, 2024	Update on November 9, 2023 motion re: HRP all-African descent cadet class / 2024 Work Plan	Chioma Ogbanufe		
February 8, 2024	African Nova Scotian Community Action Program		Devon Parris, African Nova Scotian Action Planning Lead and Miles Agar, Principal Planner	
	Africville	Jerry Taylor		
March 21, 2024	African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity			Carolann Wright, African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan
	2024/25 Work Plan Discussion	Renée Babin		
May 9, 2024	HRM Anti-Black Racism: What we Heard			DeRico Symonds, Ignite Consulting
June 13, 2024	2024/25 Work Plan Discussion	Renée Babin		
August 15, 2024	2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) Election		Liam MacSween, Manager, Special Projects	
	Status of African Descent Advisory Committee recommendations made to Executive Standing Committee	Andrew Howe		
September 4, 2024	Halifax Transit Planning Overview		Leah Perrin, Manager Regional Planning and Khan Rahaman, Supervisor Transit Planning	
	Workplan Meeting Format	Andrew Howe		
November 20, 2024	2024/25 Work Plan Discussion	Renée Babin		
	Reminders on upcoming items to Committee	Andrew Howe		