



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 4, 2024**

PRESENT: Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Jane McKay-Nesbitt
Elizabeth Fraser
Sonia Ikheloa

REGRETS: Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Councillor Becky Kent – Leave of Absence

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grants, Manager, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety
Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity Community
Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 7, 2024

Jane McKay-Nesbitt requested the minutes be deferred to a future meeting to allow the Clerk's Office to provide additional detail for Item 9.2.1 Regional Council Update regarding Regional Council's learning session with Halifax Regional Police.

MOVED by Jane McKay-Nesbitt, seconded by Elizabeth Fraser

THAT the minutes of March 7, 2024 be deferred to a future meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- Item 10.1 – Jane McKay-Nesbitt: Update on the 2023 Annual Report Presentation to the Executive Standing Committee

Deletions: None

MOVED by Elizabeth Fraser, seconded by Sonia Ikheloa

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, the following was deferred to the May 2, 2024 meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee:

- Item 9.2.1 - Regional Council Update

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Overview of Planning & Development at HRM

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated April 4, 2024

Telina Debly, Planner II gave a presentation. Debly and Dave Paterson, Principal Planner responded to question of clarification from the Committee regarding municipal planning jurisdiction, the influence of Gender-based Analysis Plan (GBA+) on planning policy, land use by-laws, bonus zoning and the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant explained that at the request of the Committee at the March 7, 2024 meeting, staff had contacted the Heritage Planner assigned to the file for the re-development on the property of St. Mark's Church on Russell Street, Halifax and would circulate correspondence from the planner to Committee members.

9.1.2 Update on Combatting Islamophobia and Improving the Safety of Muslim Women and Girls Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report dated March 21, 2024
- Staff presentation dated April 4, 2024

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Regional Council Update

This matter was deferred; refer to the Order of Business.

9.3.1 Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV, *Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated April 4, 2024

The Committee discussed the possibility of expanding its mandate to include gender diverse individuals, with concerns being noted that changing the mandate could dilute the Committee's ability to focus on issues pertaining to women, intersectional considerations and varying perspectives on gender-based marginalization. A suggestion as also raised on the need to establish clear objectives in terms of the Committee's long-term goals.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee discussed revisiting the topic at a future meeting, citing the importance of the Chair being present.

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Jane McKay-Nesbitt, seconded by Elizabeth Fraser

THAT Women's Advisory Committee extend the time of the meeting past 6:30 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Jane McKay-Nesbitt: Jane McKay-Nesbitt: Update on the 2023 Annual Report Presentation to the Executive Standing Committee

Jane McKay-Nesbitt provided an update on their presentation to the Executive Standing Committee on the Women's Advisory Committee – 2023 Annual Report at the March 11, 2024 meeting and noted the Committee's work was well received by the Standing Committee.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 2, 2024

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant spoke to attendance requirements as outlined in the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Jane McKay-Nesbitt, seconded by Elizabeth Fraser

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommends the Executive Standing Committee grant Councillor Becky Kent a leave of absence from Women's Advisory Committee meetings until April 30, 2024.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant