



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 27, 2024**

PRESENT: Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
Councillor Becky Kent
Liz Fraser
Doreen Redmond
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Sherryl Murphy
Zoey Zhou

REGRETS: Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Sonia Ikheloa
Cheryl Copage-Gehue

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity Community
Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Carla John, Advisor, 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](https://www.halifax.ca).

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 and April 4, 2024

MOVED by Liz Fraser, seconded by Sherrill Murphy

THAT the minutes of March 7 and April 4, 2024 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Kent requested that Item 9.2.2 – Regional Council Update be considered prior to item 9.1.1.

MOVED by Councillor Kent, seconded by Liz Fraser

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 Presentations - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program Update

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion provided an overview of Halifax Regional Municipality's Anti-Black Racism Grants Program and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. Jones-Grant spoke to the possibility of staff providing a presentation to the Committee about the Community Grants Program at a future meeting.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated May 27, 2024

The Committee discussed expanding its mandate to include gender equity and intersectional considerations and renaming the Committee to "Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee". The Committee noted varying perspectives on gender-based marginalization, GBA+ considerations, a gender-based oppression verses strengths-based approach to gender issues, the origins and role of the Committee, the need to establish clear objectives in terms of the Committee's long-term goals and the 2024 Work Plan.

MOVED by Liz Fraser, seconded by Rhiannon Makohoniuk

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report respecting amendments to Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV, Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality to include gender equity considerations and the Committee name be changed to "Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee".

Tracey Jones-Grants, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.2 Regional Council Update

Councillor Becky Kent provided an update on Regional Council's activities since March 2024 including:

- expansion of HRM's graphic crosswalk program to include Indigenous crosswalk design;
- 2024 Citizenship Awards;
- use of recreation vehicles for residential use;
- Combatting Islamophobia & Improving the Safety of Muslim Women and Girls report;
- adoption of Administrative Order 2024-002-ADM *Respecting the HRM Anti-Black Racism Grants Program*;
- public hearing and approval of the Housing Accelerator Fund;
- Mayor Savage writing the Minister of Africans on behalf of the African Descent Advisory Committee in support of *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* changes to move forward the community benefit agreements in historic and recognized African Nova Scotian communities;
- Community Engagement Strategy 2024; and
- approval of the 2024/25 Municipal Budget and considerations for the 2025/26 Municipal Budget.

Councillor Kent responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 20, 2024

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

**Women's Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 27, 2024**

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant