



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
February 13, 2025**

PRESENT: Mapfumo Chidzonga, Chair
Renée Babin, Vice Chair
Councillor John Young
Councillor Virginia Hinch
Andrew Howe
Chioma Ogbanufe
Jerry Taylor
Missy Searl

REGRETS: Darryl Johnson
Taylah Carvery

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Russel Brooks, Anti-Black Racism Coordinator
Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by African Descent Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

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.

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**African Descent Advisory Committee
Draft Minutes
February 13, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 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.

1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation

Russel Brooks, Anti-Black Racism Program Lead led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

1.2 Introduction of Committee Councillors

Councillor Hinch and Councillor Young introduced themselves to the Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2025

MOVED by Andrew Howe, seconded by Missy Searl

THAT the minutes of January 9, 2025 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*, Andrew Howe requested that Item 9.2.2 - Andrew Howe - Upper Hammonds Plains Community Meeting Update be considered prior to Item 9.2.1.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Missy Searl, seconded by Councillor Hinch

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 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

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9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 ANSAIO Monthly Update

Russel Brooks, Anti Black Racism Coordinator spoke to the African Heritage Month Gala Dinner on February 22, 2025 at the Halifax Convention Centre.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Andrew Howe - Review of Committee's Terms of Reference

The following was before the Committee:

- Administrative Order Number 2021-004-Gov, *Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*

Andrew Howe led the Committee in the discussion of the Terms of Reference. The Committee spoke on ensuring that the objectives of the United Nations - International Decade for People of African Descent were echoed in the Committee's work plan and Terms of Reference. The Committee noted the importance of community engagement and outreach and the multigenerational representation on the Committee.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Russel Brooks, Anti-Black Racism Coordinator responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee requested that the Climate Cacaus be invited to a future meeting to provide a presentation.

Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2.2 Andrew Howe - Upper Hammonds Plains Community Meeting Update

Andrew Howe provided the Committee with an update on the January 23, 2025 Upper Hammonds community meeting. The Committee spoke on avenues to advocate and provide support to the community on concerns raised at the meeting. They requested a presentation from the Upper Hammonds Plains community to provide the Committee with further insight on their concerns and needs.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion responding to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 20, 2025

Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant