



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 12, 2025**

PRESENT: Mapfumo Chidzonga, Chair
Councillor Virginia Hinch
Councillor John Young
Amber Grosse
Chioma Ogbanufe
Darryl Johnson

REGRETS: Renée Babin, Vice Chair
Andrew Howe
Carlotta Weymouth
Jayreece Whiley
Jerry Taylor
Taylah Carvery

STAFF: Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
(ANSAIO)
Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant
Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku, 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).

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:13 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

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ANSAIO) led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 8, 2025

MOVED by Amber Grosse, seconded by Councillor Hinch

THAT the minutes of May 8, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 10.1 – Discussion of the Use of a Racial Slur at Regional Council June 10, 2025

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Hinch

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, as provided for in section 12 (5) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Mapfumo Chidzonga requested that Information Item 2 – History of Africville be brought forward at a future African Descent Advisory Committee Meeting.

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

Correspondence was received and circulated for item 10.1.

For a detailed list of correspondence received refer to the specific agenda item.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Morag MacKenzie - Engaging Racialized Communities: A Part of The Community Engagement Councillor's Handbook

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated June 12, 2025

Morag Mackenzie, Climate Caucus spoke the organisation and highlighted questions around the Committee's goals, workplan, and challenges. Morag responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism and Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 ANSAIO Monthly Update

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

The Committee requested that an overview of the HRM Anti-Black Racism training be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.2.1 Mapfumo Chidzonga – Community RoundTable

Members noted special community announcements and upcoming events. The Committee shared the following upcoming events:

- June 14th 3rd Annual Preston Area Gala, Best Western Burnside 6:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- June 22nd Greenway Awareness Walk, Lucasville Road 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Fun Day 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- August 7th – 10th Black Lives Matter: In this Together 5th Annual Gala
- August 22nd – 24th Upper Hammonds Plains 210th Anniversary Celebration

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

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Discussion of the Use of a Racial Slur at Regional Council June 10, 2025

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Councillor Purdy

Mapfumo Chidzonga, Chair spoke on concerns with the use of the racial slur 'loosing my cotton-picking mind' by Councillor Purdy at the June 10, 2025 Regional Council meeting. Chidzonga noted that Councillor Purdy had submitted a written apology which would be circulated to the Committee.

The Committee discussed writing a letter to the Mayor and Regional Council with their concerns and recommendations to mitigate against such instances in the future.

Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism and Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ANSAIO) responded to questions of clarification from the committee.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 14, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8.00 p.m.

Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku
Legislative Assistant