



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DRAFT 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

*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](https://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**

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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 14<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Preston Area Gala, Best Western Burnside 6:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Black Lives Matter: In this Together 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Upper Hammonds Plains 210<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

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The meeting adjourned at 8.00 p.m.

Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku  
Legislative Assistant