



**SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES  
January 7, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair  
Councillor Billy Gillis, Vice Chair  
Councillor Laura White  
Jeff Ransome  
Leah Batstone  
Natasha Chestnut  
Ross Jefferson  
Sue Uteck

**REGRETS:** Alison Gillan

**STAFF:** Billy Comer, Manager, Events  
Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator  
Christopher Giddens, Solicitor  
Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku, Legislative Assistant

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Special Events 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](http://halifax.ca).*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.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 THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Jeff Ransome, seconded by Natasha Chestnut

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Later in the meeting, the following was deferred to the January 15, 2026 meeting of Special Events Advisory Committee:

- Item 6.1 - PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report

## **3. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

## **4. PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 2026 U SPORTS Men's University Cup - Saint Mary's University – Department of Athletics**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated January 7, 2026

Scott Gray and Chris Larsen, representatives of Saint Mary's University - Department of Athletics, gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

### **4.2 2026 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships – Canoe '26 Society**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated January 7, 2026

Mark James and Mike McMurray, representatives of Canoe '26 Society gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

## **5. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 STAFF**

#### **5.1.1 2026 MLSE Major Hosting Events**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report dated November 14, 2025

Billy Comer, Manager, Events and Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Ross Jefferson, seconded by Sue Uteck

**THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council:**

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**Special Events Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting Draft Minutes  
January 7, 2026**

1. **Approve an event grant in the amount of \$90,000 from the 2025/2026 Community and Events Reserve, Q621 to fund the 2026 U SPORTS Men's University Cup; and**
2. **Pending approval of the 2026/2027 budget, approve an event grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Community and Events Reserve, Q621 to fund the 2026 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5.1.2 Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated January 7, 2025

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor White

**THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee approve the proposed 2026 Special Events Advisory Committee meeting schedule as outlined in the staff memorandum.**

The Committee agreed to change their January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to January 15<sup>th</sup> special meeting to consider the deferred item. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Councillor White

**THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee approve the proposed 2026 Special Events Advisory Committee meeting schedule as outlined in the staff memorandum, as amended.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)**

**6.1 PERSONNEL MATTER – Private and Confidential Report**

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku  
Legislative Assistant