



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 28, 2024**

PRESENT: Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Doreen Redmond
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Liz Fraser
Cheryl Copage-Gehue
Sherryl Murphy

REGRETS: Councillor Becky Kent
Sonia Ikheloa
Zoey Zhou

STAFF: Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity, Community
Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Programming & Partnerships
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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 – July 4, 2024

MOVED by Liz Fraser, seconded by Doreen Redmond

THAT the minutes of July 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

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Rhiannon Makohoniuk

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 HRM's Approach to Harm Reduction

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated August 28, 2024

Max Chauvin, Director, Housing & Homelessness and Alyssa Buchanen, Housing Coordinator, Housing & Homelessness gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding barriers to the delivery of harm reduction services in rural and indigenous communities, Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) work with the Province of Nova Scotia, deeply affordable versus affordable housing, risk reduction versus harm reduction measures, the application of a Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to harm reduction, current outreach programs available in HRM and the importance of providing a tailored approach to harm reduction services to suit individual needs.

9.1.2 Update on Staff Report re: Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV, Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report to the Executive Standing Committee dated May 27, 2024

Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity, Community Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion provided an update on the "Women's Advisory Committee – Change to TOR" staff report being submitted to the September 10, 2024 Regional Council meeting and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.1.3 Update on HRM Training Policies

The following was before the Committee:

- Regional Council report dated July 15, 2023

Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity, Community Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion spoke to the mandatory onboarding training requirements for new HRM employees, noted GBA+ training was not mandatory, and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee requested further information regarding the outcome of two motions passed at the April 1, 2021 Women's Advisory Committee special meeting regarding GBA+ training requirements at HRM. Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant advised an update could be provided at a future meeting.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 19, 2024

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the re-scheduling of 2024 Committee meeting dates.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant