



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 11, 2023
REVISED**

PRESENT: Chioma Ogbanufe, Chair
Andrew Howe, Vice Chair
Councillor Iona Stoddard
Darryl Johnson
Jerry Taylor
Mapfumo Chidzonga
Renée Babin
Taylah Carvery
Treno Morton

REGRETS: Councillor Lindell Smith – Parental Leave
Keisha Cain
Hana Elnaggar
Missy Searl
Tanya Bundy

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Tamar Brown, African Nova Scotian Affairs Advisor
Krista Vining, Acting Deputy Clerk
Dorothy Maponga, 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).

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people. We are settlers on this land and we have a responsibility to truth and reconciliation. Our role as people of African ancestry is to acknowledge and keep in mind the safety and consideration the first peoples gave to us when we came to this land.

1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation

Tamar Brown, African Nova Scotian Affairs Advisor led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation. We humbly acknowledge and celebrate the profound contributions of people of African descent in shaping Nova Scotia's rich history and vibrant culture. From their earliest presence to the present, African Nova Scotians have been integral founding members, leaving an enduring mark on our community for over 400 years. Their teachings, resilience, and unwavering strength inspire us, providing a historical stronghold that reminds us of the victories achieved amidst challenges. Their labor, culture, and heartache have laid the foundation upon which we proudly stand today. Drawing upon the wisdom of an African proverb, we recognize that our strength is rooted in the collective triumphs of our ancestors. We are guided by their enduring spirit as we face contemporary challenges and strive for a more inclusive, equitable, and united future. In this space, we commit to honoring the rich contributions of people of African descent, fostering a community that celebrates diversity, equality, and unity. Together, let us build upon the legacy of our ancestors, drawing strength from their experiences as we work toward a more just and compassionate society for all.

1.2 Election of Chair

Dorothy Maponga, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

Maponga and Krista Vining, Acting Deputy Clerk advised that as outlined in section 16 of Administrative Order 2021-004-GOV, *Respecting the African Descent Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, the Committee shall elect annually a Chair and Vice-Chair from among the non-Council members of the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Jerry Taylor

THAT Chioma Ogbanufe be nominated Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Andrew Howe, seconded by Mapfumo Chidzonga

THAT Andrew Howe be nominated Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect one member for the position of Chair. Chioma Ogbanufe was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Jerry Taylor

THAT Chioma Ogbanufe be appointed Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Chioma Ogbanufe assumed the Chair.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Chioma Ogbanufe

THAT Andrew Howe be nominated Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

Andrew Howe was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Mapfumo Chidzonga, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT Andrew Howe be appointed Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Renée Babin, seconded by Andrew Howe

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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*, Jerry Taylor requested that Information Item 1 HRM Anti-Racism: What We Heard Report 2022 be brought forward at the next 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 – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation - None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Review of 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*

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

The Committee expressed an interested in receiving presentations on the following topics:

- African descent representation in the Halifax Regional Police force specifically the all African descent cadet class and an understanding of education provided to all officers around systemic racism;
- Africville Visioning Process;
- Case 20226: Beechville Planning Strategy Review and Community Benefit Action Plan;
- HRM Anti-Black Racism: What We Heard Report 2022; and
- An overview of HRM current projects that impact African descent communities.

9.1.2 African Descent Advisory Committee 2023 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- The proposed African Descent Advisory Committee 2023 meeting schedule

MOVED by Andrew Howe, seconded by Darryl Johnson

THAT the African Descent Advisory Committee approve their proposed 2023 meeting schedule as presented.

MOVED by Renée Babin, seconded by Darryl Johnson

THAT the motion be deferred to a future meeting of African Descent Advisory Committee to allow for further consultation.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 ANSAIO Monthly Update

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion gave an update and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Tamar Brown, African Nova Scotian Affairs Advisor responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee noted that it would be beneficial for staff to share information on relevant upcoming summits and conferences that occur within the Municipality.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be determined

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dorothy Maponga
Legislative Assistant