



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 2, 2023**

PRESENT: Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair
Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Sonia Ikheloa
Hannah Jackson

REGRETS: Councillor Becky Kent
Jacquie Gahagan
Maggie Hua

STAFF: Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety
Baylee Brown, Advisor, Gender Equity
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](https://www.halifax.ca).

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:07 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 – October 5, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Hannah Jackson

THAT the minutes of October 5, 2023 be deferred to a future meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- Item 10.1.1 Councillor Lovelace: Candidate Contribution Rebate Program

Deletions: None

MOVED by Liz Fraser, seconded by Sonia Ikheloa

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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

7.3.1 Great Women Portrait Project – Jo Napier

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated November 2, 2023

Jo Napier, Creator, The Great Women Portrait Project gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the subject selection process and women's historical contributions to science, technology and medicine.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Discussion of Agenda Procedures

Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair spoke to the agenda setting process, noting the Chair sets the agenda in consultation with the Vice Chair and staff assigned to the Committee, and presenters are invited based on learning priorities outlined in the 2023 Work Plan. McKay-Nesbitt encouraged members to contribute to the agenda setting process by suggesting presenters or submitting items for consideration through the Clerk's Office.

9.1.2 Women's Advisory Committee Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- Women's Advisory Committee Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee regarding the impact of the upcoming Municipal Election on the proposed meeting dates for 2024.

MOVED by Hannah Jackson, seconded by Liz Fraser

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the proposed 2024 Women's Advisory Committee meeting schedule as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 STAFF UPDATES

9.2.1 Update on the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Leadership Summit and Campaign School

Baylee Brown, Advisor, Gender Equity spoke to the Indigenous Women and Two-Spirit Leadership Summit and Campaign School hosted by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) this past September. Brown noted HRM received positive feedback from participants and community partners and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2.2 Update on the Safe City & Safe Public Spaces Program

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety spoke to the department's continuing efforts to facilitate women's safety assessments throughout HRM, a recent Transit Safety Workshop hosted by Community Safety, plans to work with the YWCA of Halifax on developing pilot training for municipal staff in identifying and supporting youth who may be experiencing commercial sexual exploitation and developing a research brief based on available data.

9.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

9.3.1 Councillor Lovelace: Review of Women Councillors' October Discussion Panel

Councillor Lovelace provided an overview of the Women in Municipal Politics Discussion Panel hosted by the Committee at their October meeting and noted the panel provided an opportunity for women Councillors to speak candidly of their experiences running for and holding public office.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant confirmed that the October meeting was not livestreamed because of the location but was audio recorded.

9.3.2 Regional Council Update

Councillor Lovelace provided an overview of Regional Council's activities since September 2023 including Council's review of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy, the renaming of Cornwallis Street to Nora Bernard Street and the end of Phase Four of the Regional Plan.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10.1.1 Councillor Lovelace: Candidate Contribution Rebate Program

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Hannah Jackson

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report exploring the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions during regular or special elections held in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should include an overview of the legislative and budgetary framework required to enable the proposed program.

Councillor Lovelace proposed the addition of the rebate program applying to Mayor and Councillor candidates. 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 Lovelace, seconded by Hannah Jackson

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report exploring the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions for Mayor and Councillor candidates during regular or special elections held in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should include an overview of the legislative and budgetary framework required to enable the proposed program.

Councillor Lovelace responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBD

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification regarding the approved 2023 Women's Advisory Committee meeting schedule, noting a December date was not included in the approved schedule but the Committee may choose to meet in December. The Committee requested an additional meeting be scheduled in 2023 in December and asked Macdonald to poll members on their availability.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant