



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
September 25, 2020**

PRESENT: Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair
Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Haneen Al-Noman
Lilian Barraclough
Tanya Boudreau
Holly Mathias
Mallory Leblanc

REGRETS: Charla Dorrington

STAFF: Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant
Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Women's 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, information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

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**Women's Advisory Committee Draft Minutes
September 25, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Round Table Introductions

Members of the Women's Advisory Committee and staff provided introductory remarks.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Jane McKay-Nesbitt nominated for the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Krista Vining called three times for further nominations for the position of Chair; there were none.

Nominations for the position of Chair were closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Jane McKay-Nesbitt was declared Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Lilian Barraclough

THAT Christine Qin Yang, be nominated as Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Krista Vining called three times for further nominations for the position of Vice Chair; there were none.

Nominations for the position of Vice Chair were closed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Christine Qin Yang was declared Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Jane McKay-Nesbitt assumed the Chair.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Councillor Nicoll.

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, due to timing constraints, the Committee agreed to address item 6.1.3 following item 6.1.1.

Councillor Blackburn joined the meeting at this time.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Lilian Barraclough declared a conflict of interest for item 5.3.1 Womens Wellness Within: Applying a Gender Lens to Arrests presentation, explaining that they are a member of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) Board that has given grants to the Womens Wellness Within.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence – None

5.2 Petitions – None

Lilian Barraclough stepped away from the meeting at this time.

5.3 Presentation

5.3.1 Womens Wellness Within: Applying a Gender Lens to Arrests – Martha Paynter

Martha Paynter, Women's Wellness Within gave an overview of the application of a gender lens to arrests and responded to questions from members of Women's Advisory Committee. A copy of the presentation is on file.

The Committee summarized that two issues addressed in the presentation are:

1. Transparency of polices on police activity; and
2. Breastfeeding/lactation policy at Halifax Regional Police

In response to a question on whether there are any jurisdictions in Canada with publicly available policies on policing activities, Deputy Mayor Blackburn referred members to the public policies of the Vancouver Police Department.

Lilian Barraclough rejoined the meeting at this time.

6. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

6.1 STAFF

6.1.1 Presentation: Update on UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Program

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation dated September 25, 2020

Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor and Brandy Whitford, Community Safety Intern, gave an overview of the Halifax's Participation in the UN Women Safe Cities and Halifax Regional Municipality's Public Safety Strategy, and responded to questions from members of Women's Advisory Committee. Amy Siciliano and Brandy Whitford responded to questions from members of Women's Advisory Committee. A copy of the presentation is on file.

6.1.2 Review Administrative Order One Respecting the Procedures of the Council (AO1), WACH Terms of Reference and Mandate

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of Administrative Order One, the Procedure of the Council Administrative Order

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- A copy of Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality (Terms of Reference)
- A copy of the Executive Standing Committee report dated October 29, 2020 with attached staff recommendation report dated January 15, 2019

There was no discussion on this matter, but members were encouraged to review the Committee's Terms of Reference and mandate.

6.1.3 Identify Key Priorities Related to Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the Municipality and Create a Work Plan

Members shared key priorities:

- Housing issues for women (homelessness and shelters)
- More women in municipal politics
- Impacts of COVID-19 on women (access to public programs, childcare)
- Opportunities of immigrant, racialized or marginalized women in Halifax Regional Municipality
- Diversity of Womens' identities such as transgender and non-binary people
- Placemaking for women and LGBTQ+ members of the community
- Climate change and intergenerational equity (youth)
- Engagement of women in municipal governance and issues
- Updating the existing municipal policies using gender-based analysis
- Training and educational opportunities for women (civic education, safety)
- Inclusion of newcomers/international students to community related to language barriers
- Women in the workplace
- Introduction of intersectional lenses
- Leadership and mentorship
- Gender equity within the municipality

The Legislative Assistant will draft a work plan for the Committee's review at their next meeting. It was noted that the Committee would look to narrow their priorities to three (3) to five (5) key areas relative to their terms of reference and mandate.

Staff was asked to provide information on the Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) process at a future meeting.

6.1.4 Establish and Approve WACH Meeting Schedule

The Legislative Assistant will poll members on a future meeting date in November 2020 and bring forward a proposed future meeting schedule for review and approval at that time.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be Determined

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant