



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2020**

PRESENT: Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair
Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair
Lilian Barraclough
Tanya Boudreau
Holly Mathias
Mallory LeBlanc
Charla Dorrington

REGRETS: Haneen Al-Noman
Councillor Lisa Blackburn

STAFF: Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant
Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor
Tracy Jones-Grant, Executive Director Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO

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 4:03 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 5, 2020

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Charla Dorrington

THAT the minutes of November 5, 2020 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair proposed items under 6.2 Committee be addressed prior to items under 6.1 Staff, to which the Committee agreed.

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Tanya Boudreau

THAT the order of business be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

5.1 Correspondence

5.1.1 Miia Suokonautio, YWCA Halifax

The Committee asked that a letter of acknowledgement be sent by the Clerk's Office on the Committee's behalf.

5.2 Petitions – None

5.3 Presentation – None

6. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

6.1 STAFF

6.1.1 Overview of UN Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Programme's Draft Scoping Study

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation dated December 3, 2020

A copy of the presentation is on file.

Brandy Whitford, Community Safety Intern, and Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor, Office of Public Safety provided an overview of the UN Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls programme draft Halifax scoping study. Staff sought input from the Committee on the following:

- What does the Committee think needs to be addressed;
- Where does the Committee's priorities lie regarding gender-based violence in public spaces in Halifax;
- What would the Committee like to see come out of Halifax's participation in the UN Women Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces programme.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee agreed to use their January 7, 2021 meeting to discuss and provide feedback on the scoping study.

6.1.2 Update on International Women's Day March 16, 2021

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated November 24, 2020 entitled: Update on International Women's Day 2021

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor informed the Committee that the HRM African Nova Scotian and Racially Visible Women's Group and staff from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO have begun planning the 2021 International Women's Day event. Hemstock sought input on the following:

1. The most important issues emerging from each member's community;
2. Mechanisms to engage members' respective communities in the event; and
3. How members would like to participate in the event (i.e. speeches, participation in panel discussions etc.)

Members discussed emerging issues, along with and mechanisms and groups to engage with for the event:

- Inspirational speakers from different fields (e.g. technology, business, government, non-profit, sport, local and international)
- Celebrate invisible champions (e.g. working in retail and grocery stores during COVID)
- Engage Nova Scotia Community College and its students
- Have satellite sites/events throughout the Municipality to remove barriers for people who can not attend virtual meetings; having several locations reduces travel and engaging in local community
- Setup a booth to showcase resources and programs available for women
- Use social media platforms to engage youth (e.g. Halifaxnoise)
- Area of concern is that people with intersecting identities (e.g. black indigenous women or racialized queer people) view themselves as outside their racialized communities
- Impact on women from COVID
- Rising rent prices, affordable housing, climate house, rising tuition

Several members expressed their interest in being involved in the event in some way.

The Committee agreed to continue discussing these questions at their January 7, 2021 meeting.

6.1.3 Overview of HRM Media Policy

Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant reminded members that the Chair represents the Committee and handles media inquiries with input from HRM Media Relations, if needed. Should Committee members receive a media inquiry, they should forward it to the Chair and HRM Media Relations.

6.2 COMMITTEE

6.2.1 Work Plan Session

A point was raised that as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee does not have the authority to update municipal policies

MOVED by Holly Mathias, seconded by Tanya Boudreau

THAT Women's Advisory Committee change the wording of the third priority from 'updating' the existing municipal policies using gender-based analysis to *reviewing*.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Members shared ideas on policies, research materials and tools they could review, along with groups and organizations they could engage with to learn more about the issues pertaining to the 3 priorities identified in the work plan.

Research and Policy Review

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) – Atlantic reports annually on living wage and housing in Halifax; contact Christine Saunier
- The Environmental Noxiousness, Racial Inequities and Community Health Project (The ENRICH Project) lead by Dr. Ingrid Waldron, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health at Dalhousie University, addresses the social, economic, political, and health effects of environmental racism in Nova Scotia
- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada)
- Municipal Staff: Identify Municipal, Provincial and Federal responsibilities for housing security and review the different forms of housing security and affordability (e.g. emergency and transitional housing, renting and owing)
- GBA+ Summary for Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan
- COVID-19 Economic Recovery Tracker - Halifax Partnership

Engagement

- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) - Atlantic has a number of gender-based campaigns
- Ecology Action Centre
- Climate Reality Project Canada Halifax Climate Hub
- Youth Project and other LGBTQ organizations in HRM
- Family SOS
- Adsum House for Women and Children, contact Meghan Hansford, Housing Support Program Manager
- The Halifax Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (Bryony House)
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA Halifax), contact Miia Suokonautio
- Alice House
- Housing and Homelessness Partnership
- Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Halifax
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMNS)
- Halifax Partnership
- Essential Library
- Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)

- ActionNova

The Chair asked WACH members to i) consider all of the suggestions made by Committee members once the minutes become available and ii) to come to the next meeting prepared to recommend the organizations that should be given priority for an invitation to bring information to a WACH meeting. The recommended priorities will be used to plan subsequent WACH meetings.

6.2.2 Christine Qin Yang: Section 14 Membership, Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

The following was before the Committee:

- A request for Committee consideration form from Christine Qin Yang

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Charla Dorrington

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff report with respect to amendments to Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality, to include women from racialized communities as part of the Committee complement.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 7, 2021

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Krista Vining
Legislative Assistant