



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2021**

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

REGRETS: Charla Dorrington

STAFF: Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant
Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor
Tracy Jones-Grant, Executive Director, Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO
Brandy Whitford, Program Coordinator
Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Regional Council at a future meeting.

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.

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Women's Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 3, 2020

The Legislative Assistant corrected spelling of the Committee members.

The Legislative Assistant corrected the date of minutes that was approved in the December 3, 2020 meeting.

The Committee members requested that the Chair's announcement be added for Item 6.2.1 Work Plan Session to clarify Committee's activities and direction.

Added Notes:

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"*.

"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."

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Tanya Boudreau

THAT the minutes of December 3, 2020 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Holly Mathias, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the order of business be approved as circulated.

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

7.1.1 Natasha Juckes

The Chair provided an overview of the correspondence submitted by Natasha Jukes on December 16, 2020 regarding a survey for their research on women's perceptions of street safety in Halifax. The Chair asked Legislative Assistant to share the link to the survey to the Committee members.

7.1.2 Miia Suokonautio, YWCA Halifax

The Chair provided an overview of the correspondence submitted by Miia Suokonautio on January 4, 2021 regarding information on research on women's housing in Halifax. The Committee shared their intention to continue reviewing the documents.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

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

Brandy Whitford, Program Coordinator, Office of Public Safety conducted scoping study on the UN Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls programme.

Whitford sought input from the Committee on the following:

1. What does the Committee think needs to be addressed in the Halifax community?
 - Safety when walking around the city: women should be able to walk around the city without feeling fear regardless of time or location (street, restaurants, bars).
 - Safety in online environment as public space/ online harassing
 - Safe streets – having better lights on the streets for pedestrians
 - Making transportation more accessible for women – active transportation, walking, cycling
 - Identifying individuals' needs in the community
 - Different perception of public safety by community members depends on their area of residence, neighborhood, age, or gender.
 - Safety surrounding different mode of transportation including cars, taxi, buses, and public transportation in general.
 - Safety button in universities
 - Education
 - Designing a city through female lenses.

2. Where does the Committee's priorities lie regarding gender-based violence in public spaces in Halifax?
 - Transportation (Public Transportation, female driver taxi services, safer bus stop locations)
 - Education (age inclusive learning opportunity)
 - Building a walkable and lively city
 - Having Intersectional lenses and approaches
 - Safety Assessment of the Infrastructure
 - Substitutions of sentences/speech to build up confidence when women are resisting unwanted advances by others.

3. What would the Committee like to see come out of Halifax's participation in the UN Women Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces programme?
 - All women feel safe in Halifax Regional Municipality
 - Safety Audit with Objective Metrics – making sure that female lenses are considered in HRM policies
 - Data and information on level of safety within Halifax to measure and assess changes over time
 - Learning other jurisdictions' examples in minimizing gender-based violence to implement in Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Chair thanked Brandy Whitford, Program Coordinator, and Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor for providing Committee Members with the opportunity to participate in the scoping study. The Chair indicated that the Committee looks forward to receiving updates on the UN Safe Cities Programme at future meetings.

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

The committee continued their discussion with Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor, on the following questions regarding 2021 International Women's Day:

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.)

The Committee shared the following points:

- Engaging young teenage girls in celebrating International Women's Day
- Engaging men in celebrating International Women's Day
- Supporting Halifax's female-owned business by buying local
- Pop up session on social media (Instagram)
- Online workshop/webinar – inviting people in diverse professions such as in business, academia (education), or organizations to share story on their accomplishment & challenges. Nomination of community members for recognition of individual's accomplishment and contribution.
- Housing, house care for queer and trans community members, impacts of climate change on youth
- Honoring the 23 women who passed away (Constable Stevenson, RCMP member, snowbirds pilot Captain Jennifer Casey, and military member)
- Resiliency – especially through COVID-19
- Recognition of "invisible champions" such as single parents and grocery store workers.
- Events that encourage people to take a break from their screen time (Art Installation, workshop, walking tour that highlights women's history/contributions)

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Work Plan Session

The Chair asked Committee members to review the lists of organizations and people recorded on December 3, 2020 minutes and asked to share their choices of top 3 priorities to guide future meetings.

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**Women's Advisory Committee Special Meeting
Draft Minutes
January 7, 2021**

Organization/People	Number of Committee members who shared as their priority
Adsum House for Women and Children	1
Housing and Homelessness Partnership	1
Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre	2
Halifax Partnership	1
Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)	3
YWCA Halifax	3
Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)	2
The Halifax Transition House Association of Nova Scotia	1
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)	1
Family SOS	1
Staff/Organization who could provide responsibility of Province and Municipality in Housing	1
Housing/Homeless related organization	1

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 4, 2021

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant