



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
March 4, 2021**

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

REGRETS: Charla Dorrington
Mallory LeBlanc

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 4, 2021

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Holly Mathias

THAT the minutes of February 4, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Tanya Boudreau

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

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – February 4, 2021

6.1 Municipal Affordable Housing Initiatives

As follow up to a presentation provided on February 4, 2021 meeting on Affordable Housing Initiatives in HRM, the Committee asked further questions to Jillian MacLellan, Planner III, Regional Planning.

The Committee asked following questions:

- Are there any Rent-to-Own options for housing in Nova Scotia?
 - There is no municipal legislation that prevents Rent-To-Own.
- What would be the examples of province giving some power to municipal government on housing? Is it something that municipality is taking into consideration?
 - Municipality is currently working to get approval from the province to give legislative authority for inclusionary zoning. (motion passed at December 13, 2016 Regional Council meeting)
 - Municipality may want to look at options for granting money to private development to build private housing.
- What zone allows tiny homes?
- When is the start date for the mandatory registration for rental property? Can information on discrimination, diversity, women (gender) be included as information for landlord registration orientation?
 - Jillian MacLellan indicated to bring this question to HRM staff working on registration report that will be coming to future Regional Council meetings and follow up with Legislative Assistant.
- What is Shared Housing?

- How does providing cash-in-lieu address needs for affordable housing?
 - At this point, it was decided that the best way to collect public benefit is to accept cash-in-lieu and transfer to non-profits.
- Are there any formal adoption of Gender-based Analysis Plus in Affordable Housing programs at HRM?? No
- How can the Women's Advisory Committee assist in having the Regional Planning Department utilize Gender Based Analysis in their work?
 - Jillian MacLellan will follow up with Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor to further discuss this consideration.
 - It was noted that Edmonton City Council passed a motion (CR4189) to implement mandatory GBA+ e-learning training for senior leaders and for City Councillors by end of 2018. The Committee will consider recommending to the Executive Committee that HRM Councillors and staff be required to take the GBA+ certificate course.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

The Chair noted that there was no correspondence received.

7.2 Petitions – NONE

7.3 Presentation – NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 International Women's Day 2021

The following was before the Committee:

- A memorandum titled: Invitation to International Women's Day 2021

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor, The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO provided an overview on HRM International Women's Day 2021 event that is scheduled on March 8, 2021. Members were invited to attend virtually and the link for the meeting was circulated.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Work Plan Session

9.2.1.1 Approval of the 2021 Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the draft 2021 Work Plan and discussed to finalize this plan.

During the discussion, Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor and Tracy Jones-Grant, Executive Director, Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO indicated that staff can provide a monthly update regarding Gender-Based Analysis Plus or any other gender related updates from the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee approve Women's Advisory Committee's 2021 Work Plan as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.1.2 Follow Up to Home for Good Project Presentation

The Committee discussed whether or not there are any specific actions that the Committee could take based on the presentations at the February 4, 2021 meeting on i) Women's Housing in Halifax, a Community Perspective (YWCA Halifax, Alice House, *The Marguerite Centre*) and ii) Municipal Affordable Housing Initiatives (Jillian MacLellan, Planner III, Regional Planning).

The Committee showed intent to potentially make a motion recommending to the Executive Committee that landlords be required to take a landlord training course as recommended by the participating organizations in the Home For Good Project.

By working together with shelters and community groups in HRM, more information for tenants might be available on housing.

The Committee discussed the possibility of sending a letter of support regarding women's housing issues to the Mayor and Councillors. Members of the Committee added that YWCA website can be a great resource to reference statistics and information to be included in such letter. The Committee members will consult Legislative Assistant regarding procedure.

The Committee considered possibility of drafting a letter of support for groups interested in applying [Feminist Response and Recovery Fund](#).

The Committee discussed the possibility of inviting representatives from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women to present to the Committee.

The Chair announced that the Committee plans to focus on Immigration in the next meeting by inviting presenters.

10. ADDED ITEMS

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 1, 2021

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant