



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
June 3, 2021**

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

REGRETS: Councillor Iona Stoddard

STAFF: Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor  
Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO  
Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant  
Mica Daurie, Legislative Support

*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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 5:37 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and indicated that on this day we are especially mindful of the Residential School survivors and their descendants as they remember again the pain of the Residential School experience.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 6, 2021**

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

**THAT the minutes of May 6, 2021 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Committee requested that item 9.2.3 be moved up to directly following item 9.1.3.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Holly Mathias

**THAT the order of business 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 – NONE**

**7.1 Correspondence**

Chair noted that correspondence was received from Jodi Brown, asking for support on Period Poverty in Nova Scotia (Bill 126 and Bill 154).

A committee member mentioned that Halifax Regional Municipality asked for a report on the provision of free menstrual products in HRM owned and operated facilities. It was also noted that free menstrual products are available at some municipal facilities, such as Central Library.

The Committee showed interest in hearing updates on the provision of free menstrual products in HRM owned and operated facilities. The Committee determined to reply to Jodi Brown, noting that it is beyond the scope of this Committee to offer support for Bills in front of the Provincial Legislature but that the Committee is determined to learn more about the provision of free menstrual products in HRM owned and operated facilities.

**7.2 Petitions – NONE**

**7.3 Presentation – NONE**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

## **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Regional Plan Review: Themes & Directions Report Presentation**

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff presentation dated June 3, 2021

Kathleen Fralic, Planner III gave a presentation on Regional Plan Review Themes and Direction Report with main attention to public engagement timeline and process, themes and directions, Theme 5 and Theme 7.

Following the overall Themes and Directions presentation and Theme 5 presentations, The Committee asked questions and following comments were made:

- Are social lenses applied to planning policies for safer, more inclusive, and accessible transportation especially for women and people with disabilities?
- There is no discussion around 2SLGBTQ+ issues on social inclusion theme. What work has been done to support 2SLGBTQ+ members? Considering violence, discrimination, and lack of accessible services in the city for 2SLGBTQ+ communities, there is still a lot of work that need to be done to make sure that all planning policies are safe and accessible.
- Is there any way that the Regional Plan can include consideration of different needs for affordable housing in order to provide better or advanced access for women?
- There should be more consideration given to development of housing within communities where people, especially Black or Indigenous peoples, have a cultural attachment.
- Complete community is important to ensure that people have access to essential services within their own communities especially when public health restrictions (lockdown) are in place during COVID-19.

Kathleen Fralic, Planner III, Leah Perrin, Principal Planner and Kate Greene, Program Manager, Regional Policy Regional Planning answered some of the questions from the Committee as follows:

- As part of the Social Policy Theme, the Regional Plan is looking at adding social lenses to everything we do when creating policies. Through the Integrated Mobility Plan working group, equity lenses are considered for transportation.

Following the presentation on Theme 7, the Committee asked questions and commented as follows:

- Are gender lenses incorporated when it comes to safety of public spaces?
- How intersectionality would be considered in public consultation?
- Are public washrooms considered to be a facility?
- Food security and accessibility for women and youth, especially during COVID-19.
- Accessibility to community center and public spaces for Muslim women.
- Recognition of Women's Advisory Committee's voices in the Regional Plan.

The Committee will continue discussing the Regional Plan Review Themes & Directions at the July meeting and provide a written submission to the Regional Plan Review team at Planning and Development.

#### **9.1.2 Update on GBA+ from Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor noted that there is no update at this time.

#### **9.1.3 Update on Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

Tracey Jones-Grant, Executive Director of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO provided an update on the following items:

- Newly adopted Accessibility Strategy at Halifax Regional Council
- Anti-Black Racism Strategy Action Plan
- June is National Indigenous History Month

## **9.2 COMMITTEE**

### **9.2.1 Anti-Asian Racism – gender-based data collection**

The following was before the Committee:

- A request for Committee consideration form from Christine Qin Yang dated June 3, 2021

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Holly Mathias

**THAT Women's Advisory Committee recommend Executive Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the Chief Administrative Officer, through the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme, to consider the impact of anti-Asian racism on women's experiences of safety in public spaces and explore ways to identify and collect race-based data about these experiences.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **9.2.2 Information Resources to Support Safety of Women of Asian Descent**

The following was before the Committee:

- A request for Committee consideration form from Christine Qin Yang dated June 3, 2021

MOVED by Christine Qin Yang, seconded by Charla Dorrington

**THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend Executive Standing Committee request a staff report on the provision of information resources to support the safety of women of Asian descent in public spaces in the Halifax region.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **9.2.3 Update on Halifax Regional Council activities**

Councillor Blackburn provided a summary of actions and decisions made at the May 4, 2021 and May 18, 2021 special meetings of Regional Council.

## **10. ADDED ITEMS**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 8, 2021**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama  
Legislative Assistant