



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 9, 2021**

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

STAFF: Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor  
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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:01 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.

The Chair welcomed a new member, Joanne Bealy to the Committee.

The Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

### **1.2 Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Legislative Assistant.

The Legislative Assistant provided an overview of the election procedure.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Jane McKay-Nesbitt, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

**THAT Jane McKay-Nesbitt be nominated Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant announced that Jane McKay-Nesbitt is acclaimed as Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Jane McKay-Nesbitt then assumed the Chair. The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Charla Dorrington, seconded by Tanya Boudreau

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for any further nominations.

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Charla Dorrington

**THAT nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair announced Christine Qin Yang is acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 8, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the minutes of July 8, 2021 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

As provided for in Section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, the Committee requested that item 9.1.2 be considered prior to item 9.1.1.

MOVED by Charla Dorrington, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

**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**

**7.2 Petitions**

**7.3 Presentation**

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

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 What We Heard: Scoping Study of the UN Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces Programme**

The following was before the Committee:

- A draft report of the HRM UN Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces Program Scoping Study dated September 2021

Amy Brierley, UN Women Program Coordinator gave a presentation. Brierley and Amy Siciliano, Public Safety Advisor responded to questions of clarification from the Women's Advisory Committee.

The Committee asked questions regarding public showers (mobile showers), the role of the Implementing Committee, program process, the inclusion of data from 211 used for the study and collaborating organizations.

### **9.1.2 E'pit Jiksitui / Indigenous Women's Perspectives**

The following was before the Committee:

- A handout entitled Equal Status for Women in the Indian Act: the *Indian Act* and Bill S-3
- A staff presentation dated September 9, 2021

Cheryl Copage Gehue, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO gave a presentation on Indigenous Women's Perspectives by providing an overview on Indigenous history, the Indian Act, current issues, and involvement of Indigenous women in municipal issues. Copage Gehue responded to questions of clarification from the Women's Advisory Committee.

The Committee asked questions regarding the blanket exercise, housing, campaign school, involvement in municipal government (boards and committees), involvement of Black Indigenous women and Métis women.

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

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor gave an update on GBA+ including:

- Federal Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training was shared with Regional Council members
- GBA+ elective training will be launched for HRM staff
- Pilot internal training was provided to HRM staff on Gender Based Analysis
- Toolkit is complete will be shared during Gender Equality Week

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

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor gave an update on the upcoming Gender Equality Week (September 20 – 26) and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE**

### **9.2.1 Canadian Muslim Women: Discrimination, Sexism and Misperceptions**

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation dated September 9, 2021

Haneen Al-Noman gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Women's Advisory Committee.

The Committee will continue the discussion on this issue at the next meeting.

### **9.2.2 Women's Quality of Life in Halifax Regional Municipality by Engage Nova Scotia (Spring 2021)**

The following was before the Committee:

- A report entitled: *Women's Quality of Life in Halifax Regional Municipality – Results from the 2019 Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey by Engage Nova Scotia (Spring 2021)*

The Committee will continue the discussion of this information at the next meeting.

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

Councillor Stoddard provided a summary of actions and decisions made at the July 20, 2021, August 17, 2021 and August 31, 2021 special meetings of Regional Council.

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 7, 2021**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama  
Legislative Assistant