



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 4, 2021**

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

REGRETS: Charla Dorrington
Tanya Boudreau
Mallory LeBlanc

STAFF: Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor
Amy Brierley, HRM Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces Program Coordinator
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 5:49 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 – September 9, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

THAT the minutes of September 9, 2021 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

THAT the order of business be approved as presented.

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

The Chair noted that correspondence was received from Miia Suokonautio, Mohammed Hashim and Angela Lee.

The correspondence from Miia Suokonautio, YWCA, is a follow-up to the presentation provided to the Committee for Home for Good project. The correspondence includes the list of recommendations emerging from the Home for Good Project. The Committee will consider the recommendations with the intention of introducing motion(s) regarding these recommendations at the next meeting.

The Committee requested that the Chair respond to Mohammed Hashim and Angela Lee and ask if there are ways that the Committee can still participate in the survey or contribute to the work around anti-Asian racism.

7.2 Petitions

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Impacts of Climate Change on Women – Noreen Mabiza, Ecology Action Center

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation dated November 4, 2021

Noreen Mabiza, Energy Coordinator (Sustainable Communities), Ecology Action Center, gave a presentation and responded to questions from the Committee including:

- How can the Women's Advisory Committee help to bring forward some changes to help women in the context of climate change?
- In your work, have you encountered any areas or challenges where there could be an improvement around climate justice including the work on issues pertaining to women and non-binary people?
- Is there anything the Committee can do as an advisory body to the municipality other than writing a letter or talking to people?
- Why there is so little research on the impacts of climate change on women in Western countries (outside the developing world)?
- What do you think about whether or not women working in the service industry understand the impact that climate change may have on them?

7.3.2 Getting to know the NS Quality of Life 2019 Survey Results through the Analysis of Women's Quality of Life in HRM – Taylor Hill and Sara Colbourne

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation dated November 4, 2021
- A report titled *Women's Quality of Life in Halifax Regional Municipality* (Engage Nova Scotia, Spring 2021)

Taylor Hill, Research Coordinator and Data Analyst, Engage Nova Scotia and Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO gave a presentation and responded to questions from the Committee including:

- In what ways you've engaged and looked at what the quality of life for gender diverse folks in Halifax Regional Municipality look like?
- Is the Office of Diversity and Inclusion going to request this kind of research in the next few years to see progress?
- The map is not always reflective of reality. Is there any way to take this information and be able to narrow down in a way that helps us understand how we can help these women (for example: women without Canadian citizenship) and better address their concerns?

The Committee discussed limitations of the research such as the lack of information that would enable meaningful comparisons of high versus low values on the quality of life indicators for various communities, and lack of data around the quality of life for gender diverse folks and people from other marginalized groups.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor gave an update on GBA+ and Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

9.1.2 Update on HRM's Safe City & Safe Public Spaces Program

Amy Brierley, HRM Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces Program Coordinator gave an update on HRM's Safe City & Safe Public Spaces Program.

9.2 COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Reviewing and Learning from the Steps Taken to Protect Muslim Canadians by Other Canadian Municipalities and Levels of Governments

The following was before the Committee:

- A request for Women's Advisory Committee's Consideration from Haneen Al-Noman

MOVED by Haneen Al-Noman, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.2 2020/2021 Women's Advisory Committee Annual Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Women's Advisory Committee report dated November 4, 2021 with attached 2021 Work Plan and recommendation to the HRM Strategic Plan Review Committee

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee:

- 1. Accept the 2020/2021 Women's Advisory Committee Annual Report as presented; and**
- 2. Recommend that Executive Standing Committee accept the 2020/2021 Women's Advisory Committee Annual Report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2.3 Update on Halifax Regional Council activities

The following was before the Committee:

- Regional Council meeting minutes of September 14, September 28, October 5, October 19 and October 26, 2021.

Councillor Stoddard provided a summary of actions and decisions made at the September 14, September 28, October 5, October 19 and October 26, 2021 meetings of the Regional Council. The Committee asked for clarification in the Council's actions regarding the affordable housing grant.

9.2.4 Work Plan Priorities 2022/2023

The Chair mentioned that at the next meeting, the Committee will start thinking about its priorities for 2022. The Chair encouraged members to bring ideas for priorities and presenters (any individual groups or organizations).

The Chair also mentioned that the Committee will further consider receiving a presentation on climate change if needed as the Committee thinks about priorities for 2022.

9.2.5 International Women's Day

The Chair reminded the Committee about 2022 International Women's Day and asked the Committee members to start thinking about how the International Women's Day could be celebrated in Halifax Regional Municipality.

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor, gave an overview of 2021 International Women's Day and spoke to the history of HRM's celebration of International Women's Day. In 2022, the event will be held in March. Caroline Hemstock recommended the Committee discuss International Women's Day at their December or January meeting and encouraged members to bring any ideas for next year's theme.

The Chair asked if committee members, as representatives of the Committee, can participate in the Planning Committee for 2022 International Women's Day. The Chair will follow up with the Legislative Assistant about the process.

10. ADDED ITEMS

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 2, 2021

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama
Legislative Assistant