



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 5, 2023**

PRESENT: Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair
Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Councillor Becky Kent
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Jacquie Gahagan
Liz Fraser

REGRETS: Sonia Ikheloa
Maggie Hua

STAFF: Amy Brierley, Program Coordinator, Safe City and Safe Public Spaces
Baylee Brown, Advisor, Gender Equity
Elizabeth Macdonald, 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 4:35 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 7, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Liz Fraser

THAT the minutes of September 7, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Liz Fraser

THAT the agenda 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 – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 Women in Municipal Politics Discussion Panel

Councillor Becky Kent spoke to serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Nova Scotia and currently as a Halifax Regional Councillor. Councillor Kent noted that gender parity was first achieved by Regional Council following the 2020 municipal election however, female politicians continued to face barriers in traditionally male dominated spaces.

Councillor Pam Lovelace spoke to being a first generation Canadian and factors that influenced their decision to run for Regional Council. Councillor Lovelace emphasized the importance of encouraging community members to get involved in the political process.

Councillor Lisa Blackburn spoke to how a career in radio and newscasting led to working with various community groups that consequently resulted in their decision to run for Regional Council. Councillor

Blackburn also spoke to the financial barriers often encountered when running a political campaign and outlined specific challenges unique to women interested to run for political office.

Councillor Patty Cuttell spoke to factors that influenced their decision to run for Regional Council including experiences travelling, an interest in international development, and obtaining a Master's Degree in Urban and Rural Planning with a focus in community development. Councillor Cuttell also spoke to personal barriers encountered while running for Regional Council in the 2020 municipal election and the importance of a strong support network.

Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon spoke to their education and professional background prior to entering politics including obtaining a Bachelor of Child Studies degree and a decades long career in the non-profit sector with a focus on helping people living with disabilities. Councillor Deagle-Gammon emphasized the importance of elevating the voices of those traditionally excluded from the political process.

Councillor Kathryn Morse spoke to having a professional career prior to entering municipal politics and factors that influenced their decision to run for public office. Councillor Morse emphasized the need for people with diverse backgrounds and experiences to be included in government and the importance of having a mentor when pursuing a political career.

Councillor Trish Purdy spoke to experiences in various industries prior to pursuing a political career including fitness, real estate, homemaking and ministry. Councillor Purdy offered advice in navigating community engagement while campaigning and explained challenges they encountered when first starting as a Councillor.

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lorelei Nicoll, Cole Harbour spoke to experiences as a woman entering municipal politics when first elected to Regional Council in the 2008 municipal election. MLA Nicoll emphasized the importance of remaining determined in navigating traditionally male dominated spaces and outlined grassroots initiatives they spearheaded related to issues facing women as a Regional Councillor and MLA.

The Panel responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 2, 2023

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant