



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DRAFT 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

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Women's Advisory Committee at a future meeting.*

*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).*

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**Women's Advisory Committee  
Draft Minutes  
October 5, 2023**

*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 their experiences serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Nova Scotia and currently, as a 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 their experiences as 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 their career in radio and newscasting led to working with various community groups that consequently resulted in their decision to run for Regional Council.

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Councillor Blackburn also spoke to the financial barriers often encountered when running a political campaign and outlined specific challenges unique to women wishing 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 their 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 their 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.

**MLA Lorelei Nicoll** spoke to their 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.

Councillors Kent, Lovelace, Blackburn, Cuttell, Deagle Gammon, Morse, Purdy, and MLA Nicoll 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