



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 20, 2024**

PRESENT: Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
Hannah Jackson, Vice Chair
Councillor Pam Lovelace
Councillor Becky Kent
Sonia Ikheloa
Liz Fraser
Cheryl Copage-Gehue
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Zoey Zhou

REGRETS: Doreen Redmond
Sherrill Murphy

STAFF: Baylee Brown, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+/Gender Equity, Community
Engagement and Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ANSAIO)
Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
(ANSAIO)
Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety

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 4:40 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 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 – May 27, 2024

MOVED by Rhiannon Makohoniuk, seconded by Hannah Jackson

THAT the minutes of May 27, 2024 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

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Councillor Lovelace requested that Item 9.2.2 – Regional Council Update be considered prior to item 9.1.1.

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Cheryl Copage-Gehue

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, the following was deferred:

- Item 9.2.1 Discuss Revisions to the Women's Advisory Committee Approved 2024 Work Plan

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/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Update on Combatting Islamophobia and Improving the Safety of Muslim Women and Girls Report

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety provided an update on the Combatting Islamophobia and Improving the Safety of Muslim Women and Girls report at the April 9, 2024 Regional Council meeting. They noted the recommendation report originated from a motion passed by the

Women's Advisory Committee in 2021. Brierley responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee discussed the possibility of examining ways to address antisemitism at a future meeting.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Discuss Revisions to the Women's Advisory Committee Approved 2024 Work Plan

The following was before the Committee:

- Women's Advisory Committee Approved 2024 Work Plan
- Draft Women's Advisory Committee Revised 2024 Work Plan

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety spoke to the proposed revisions to the Women's Advisory Committee Approved 2024 Work Plan and identifying issues within the Municipal jurisdiction.

The Committee discussed the proposed revisions to the Approved 2024 Work Plan and noted concerns that the revisions were too broad in scope. The Committee discussed choosing to focus on one of the three priorities identified in the 2024 Work Plan and ways to identify key priorities and needs within communities.

Brierley and Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ANSAIO) responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

As the meeting would lose quorum at 6:15 p.m., the Women's Advisory Committee agreed to defer this item to their next regular meeting.

9.2.2 Regional Council Update

Councillor Lovelace provided an update on Regional Council's activities since May 2024 including:

- Halifax Regional Municipality's (HRM) ongoing work with the Province to address the needs of residents experiencing homelessness;
- HRM's approach to encampments;
- Halifax Regional Council Emergency Management Program document review;
- Windsor Street Exchange Redevelopment Project: Functional Design;
- Second Reading Proposed By-law S-613, an Amendment to By-law S-600, *Respecting Solid Waste Resource Collection and Disposal – Illegal Dumping and Litter Abatement Enforcement* update;
- Regional Council's request for a staff report on vegetation management on trails and walkways;
- HRM's ongoing work with Halifax Water to address septic disposal challenges at the West Hants facility; and
- Consideration of Active Transportation Facility Across Highway 101 Exit 2.

Councillor Lovelace responded to questions of clarification from the Committee including HRM's work with service providers to address the needs of residents experiencing homelessness and ongoing work with the Province regarding harm reduction measures.

The Committee discussed the possibility of receiving a staff presentation from Housing and Homeless staff on HRM's approach to harm reduction initiatives and the impacts of the National Housing Strategy at the Municipal level for the purpose of providing feedback from a gendered lens.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 4, 2024 (if required)

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant