



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 22, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Mapfumo Chidzonga, Chair  
Councillor John Young, Vice Chair  
Councillor Virginia Hinch  
Howard Brown  
Tayla Carvery  
Carlotta Weymouth

**REGRETS:** Kehinde Akintola  
Renee Babin – Leave of Absence  
Amber Brown  
Jerry Taylor  
Jayreece Whiley – Leave of Absence

**STAFF:** Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
(ANSAIO)  
Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism  
Liam MacSween, Elections and Special Projects Manager  
Kim Johnson, Legislative Support

*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).*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:14 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.

### **1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation**

Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism, led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13, 2025**

MOVED by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**THAT the minutes of November 13, 2025 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 Carlotta Weymouth, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**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 Presentations – None**

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

## **9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Exploring Afrocentric Governance**

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated January 22, 2026

Max Chauvin, Director, Special Projects, Parks and Recreation gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee provided feedback regarding the value of diversifying Board representation and encouraging inclusion of Afrocentric principles and values to inform decision making and community centred programming options at multi-use facilities.

Chauvin noted they would provide a letter for distribution to the Committee. The Chair invited Committee members to continue to reflect on the presentation and provide their feedback to the Chair or Clerk by February 6<sup>th</sup> to be forwarded to Chauvin.

### **9.1.2 ANSAIO Monthly Update**

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated January 2026

Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism spoke to the handout and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Tracey Jones-Grant shared that Mount Saint Vincent University was hosting a conference on February 10<sup>th</sup> entitled Unstoppable: Celebrating the Brilliance and Contributions of Women. Additional details on the conference would be circulated to the Committee through the Clerk's Office.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

### **9.2.1 Mapfumo Chidzonga – Community Roundtable**

Members and staff noted upcoming events including the Ladies Auxiliary annual Afrocentric cultural evening at St. Thomas Baptist Church on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the African Heritage Month provincial gala at the Halifax Convention Centre on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Lucasville Greenway Association would also hold community engagements at the Wallace Lucas Community Centre on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss a proposed area rate for the multi-use pathway for the Lucasville Greenway.

## **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 19, 2026**

With regret Councillor Young stepped down as Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee due to scheduling issues. The Chair noted the election of Vice Chair would be included on the agenda for February 19, 2026.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Kim Johnson  
Legislative Support