



**AFRICAN DESCENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 19, 2026**

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

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

**STAFF:** 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 6:09 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.

### **1.2 Election of Vice Chair**

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hinch, seconded by Councillor Young

**THAT Howard Brown be nominated Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.**

Howard Brown was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Hinch, seconded by Carlotta Weymouth

**THAT Howard Brown be appointed Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Howard Brown was declared the Vice Chair of the African Descent Advisory Committee.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 22, 2026**

MOVED by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**THAT the minutes of January 22, 2026 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 Young, seconded by Renée Babin

**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 Request for Feedback on Committee Member Experience**

Cathy Collett, Senior Policy Advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Committee members provided feedback on their experience working on the African Descent Advisory Committee. Members reflected on the value of diverse voices on the Committee (e.g. intergenerational, regional, and historic and newcomer populations), and means to amplify all voices, such as including speaker's lists in meeting agendas. Members spoke to ensuring meaningful meetings, by building capacity on municipal processes, and the potential of providing in-community workshops and leveraging contacts in African Nova Scotian communities.

Collett advised that all input was to be included in an upcoming Governance Review report to Regional Council.

**9.1.2 ANSAIO Monthly Update**

Russel Brooks, Advisor, Anti-Black Racism (ABR) shared that the second Anti-Black Racism (ABR) grants award ceremony was February 26, 2026 to recognize sixteen recipients of ABR grants.

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

**9.2.1 Mapfumo Chidzonga – Community Roundtable**

Members acknowledged the passing of Africville social activist Eddie Carvery and American civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson, reflecting on the impact of their activism for African Nova Scotian communities.

Members shared upcoming events and projects, including a book launch on the history of Lucasville scheduled for March 2026 at the Lucasville United Baptist Church, and a micro transit pilot project for Lucasville in 2027. Members extended congratulations for a successful LOVE Gala on February 13, 2026, and indicated funding for the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Plan (REPP) was under consideration in current Regional Council budget deliberations.

**10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 12, 2026**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Kim Johnson  
Legislative Support