



**SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 8, 2026**

PRESENT: Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair
Councillor Billy Gillis, Vice Chair
Gordon Stevens
Jeff Ransome
Sue Uteck
Natasha Chestnut

REGRETS: Councillor Laura White
Ross Jefferson
Leah Batstone

STAFF: Billy Comer, Manager, Events
Shari Dillman, Events Grant Administrator
Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.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 – March 25, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Gordon Stevens

THAT the minutes of March 25, 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

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku, Legislative Assistant requested that Item 7.3 - Presentation be considered following Item 5.

MOVED by Councillor Gillis, seconded by Jeff Ransome

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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 – March 25, 2026

6.1 Halifax Regional Event Strategy Report

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff report dated February 24, 2026
- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Mark Teeple, Vice President, Festivals & Events Discover Halifax gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Billy Comer, Manager, Events responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Natasha Chestnut, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Endorse the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated February 24, 2026.**

2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work in partnership with Discover Halifax and sector partners to implement the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035 through Annual Action Plans, using existing resources.**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to align various municipal event-related policies, processes, and governance structures, where appropriate, with the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035**
4. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with Discover Halifax to prepare and return to Council with:**
 - a. **proposed detailed policy, program, governance, and measurement instruments, as required, to support implementation of the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035; and**
 - b. **proposed amendments to Administrative Order 2014-020-GOV (Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants) to align, or replace, current event-funding programs so they are governed by, and consistent with, the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035.**

Councillor Gillis proposed the wording 'staff presentation' be added to part a of recommendation 4. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Natasha Chestnut, seconded by Councillor Gillis

THAT the Special Events Advisory Committee recommend Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Endorse the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated February 24, 2026.**
2. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work in partnership with Discover Halifax and sector partners to implement the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035 through Annual Action Plans, using existing resources.**
3. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to align various municipal event-related policies, processes, and governance structures, where appropriate, with the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035**
4. **Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with Discover Halifax to prepare and return to Council with:**
 - a. **staff presentation, proposed detailed policy, program, governance, and measurement instruments, as required, to support implementation of the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035; and**
 - b. **proposed amendments to Administrative Order 2014-020-GOV (Marketing Levy Special Event Reserve Grants) to align, or replace, current event-funding programs so they are governed by, and consistent with, the Halifax Regional Event Strategy 2035.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Moonlight Bazaar - Music Nova Scotia

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Lauchlan Ough and Jody Kliffer, representatives from Music Nova Scotia gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.2 2026 ICF Canoe Sprint Masters World Championships - Atlantic Division Canoe Kayak Canada

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Mark James, representative from Atlantic Division Canoe Kayak Canada gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.3 2026 Lacrosse Canada Minor Box Nationals - Lacrosse Nova Scotia

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Caroline Covert and Lisa Blanchard, representatives from Lacrosse Nova Scotia gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.4 2026 Optimist North American Championship - Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

George Kapetanakis and Scott Carroll, representatives from Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.5 2026 Quebec Maritime Junior Hockey League Entry Draft - The Halifax Mooseheads Charitable Foundation Incorporated

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Brian Urquhart and Colby Pridham, representatives from The Halifax Mooseheads Charitable Foundation Incorporated gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.6 The Great Outdoors Comedy Festival - Canadian Progress Club – Halifax

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026

Mike Anderson, representative from Canadian Progress Club, Halifax gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

7.3.7 Canada Pride 2027 - Halifax Pride Society

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 8, 2026
- Handout dated April 8, 2026

Fiona Kerr and Connor McKiggan, representatives from Halifax Pride Society gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 13, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Olawumi Odeyinka-Apantaku
Legislative Assistant