



**SPECIAL EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DRAFT 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

*These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by Special Events 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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## **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.**

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- 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**

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### **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**

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- 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