HALIFAX

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 18, 2026

PRESENT:	Michelle Benson, Vice Chair Councillor Virginia Hinch Devi Ayyagari Min Gao Rhiannon Makohoniuk Tara Pollock
REGRETS:	Doreen Redmond, Chair Councillor Nancy Hartling Natalie Borden Cheryl Copage-Gehue Mairi Graham
STAFF:	Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist Raine Sparling, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity Community Engagement and Research Elizabeth Macdonald, 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 Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:27 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 – April 2, 2026

MOVED by Councillor Hinch, seconded by Devi Ayyagari

THAT the minutes of April 2, 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:

- Item 9.1.1 MCO & BU Orientation

Deferred to the August 13, 2026 meeting of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee:

- Item 9.1.2 Discussion of Work Plan and Committee Priorities

MOVED by Rhiannon Makohoniuk, seconded by Devi Ayyagari

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Later in the meeting, the following was deferred:

- Item 9.1.3 Regional Council Update

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 MCO & BU Orientation

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated June 18, 2026
- Staff presentation dated June 18, 2026

This matter was deleted during the approval of the Order of Business.

9.1.2 Discussion of Work Plan and Committee Priorities

The following was before the Committee:

- Approved 2024 Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee Work Plan

This matter was deferred during the approval of the Order of Business.

9.1.3 UN Safe Cities Update

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated June 18, 2026

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES
9.2.1 Regional Council Update

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

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 13, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant