

Request for Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday one week prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor

Notice of Motion given on March 23, 2021 |
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Council or Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2021

Subject: Africville Visioning Process

Motion for Council to Consider:

Halifax Regional Council request a staff report that will look at developing a collaborative process that will ultimately create an Africville Visioning Process. Africville Visioning process should include, but will not be limited to:

1. Determine a cooperative working partnership between HRM and community partners and organizations that are working on behalf of the interest of descendants.
2. Engage with other organizations, businesses, and levels of Government whose interest could potentially impact Africville lands and/or Africville descendants to determine how they can support the Africville Visioning Process and its outcomes.
3. Reviewing the 2010 Africville Agreement and determining which commitments have been met, where further action is required, and whether these past commitments address the current desires of the community
4. Identifying all municipal led or partnered projects and initiatives that have a direct impact on the lands at Africville, lands surrounding Africville, and its users (current/future) to understand the full effect they will have on the Africville lands.
5. Developing a comprehensive, co-facilitated public engagement process in partnership with Africville descendants, Africville focused organizations, and community partners that will inform the outcomes of the visioning process.
6. Re-visiting the 2003 Bayne Street Master Plan, and work with partners to collaborate to reimagine the Master Plan that would include land specifically dedicated to descendants of Africville and/or uses that would be supported by descendants, community members or organizations who broadly represent the interest of Africville descendants.
7. Examine the possibility of using the Africville Visioning Process to address the ongoing class action court proceedings against HRM and working with claimants and descendants to address their concerns outside of the court system.

Reason:

The story of Africville, one of Canada's oldest black urban settlement, is one that has had lasting impact, locally and across our nation. The loss of a vibrant community due to the promises of urban renewal continues to garner interests around the issue of social injustice and government-community relationship.

Since the Africville apology and agreement, a decade ago, Halifax Regional Municipality has continued to foster better relationship with the Africville community. This has been demonstrated through its partnership with the Africville Heritage Trust and ongoing support for the Africville Genealogy Society. In addition, there have been several Africville focused initiatives that further demonstrate HRM's commitment to and interests in matters relating to Africville. These include:

- **Windsor Street Exchange Reconfiguration** – The multi-million-dollar project funded by Transport Canada’s National Trade Corridors Fund, is currently looking at potential Community Benefit to Africville/ANS Community as part of the project.
- **Africville Interpretive Panels** – A collaboration with the Africville Heritage Trust and the Africville Genealogy to install 6 interpretive panels on the Africville site.
- **Halifax Explosion Commemorative Sculpture installation**
- **Africville Active Transportation Project** – exploration and subsequent construction of viable active transportation options to the Africville National Historic Site.
- **Ongoing Support for the Annual Africville Reunion**
- **Support for several Africville Heritage Trust initiatives** – including Heritage Day Programming, Annual Christmas Tree lighting, Africville Airport Display etc.
- **The Road to Economic Prosperity** – which recognizes Africville as a key community partner.

In recent times, there have been several community championed actions aimed at drawing the attention of all levels of government, in particular Halifax Regional Municipality, to Africville’s situation. Many of these actions focus on the need for governments to address both historic and contemporary injustices related to Africville. These community concerns have highlighted issues such as:

- **Reparations for Africville** – Many believed there has not been proper compensation for Africville. They believe that the Africville Apology/Settlement agreement did not fully provide true compensation for descendants of Africville for the loss of their community. There have been suggestions around land and financial compensations, economic development, heritage and community infrastructural development, education trust funds etc. ¹
- **Accessibility Concerns** – Over the years, there have been calls to make Africville accessible. Many believe that a National Historic Site which is also the site of the only museum dedicated to African Nova Scotian History within an urban setting should be easily accessible. There is currently an active petition with over 2000 signatures for active transportation and public transit to Africville. The annual walk to Africville event continues to shine the light on this reality. ¹
- **Better Engagement** – Concerns have been raised around HRM’s lack of engagement with other Africville groups outside of the Africville Genealogy Society and Africville Heritage Trust. Many individuals believe that there is a need for HRM to reach out to the larger Africville community and allow others to come to the table in addition to these two groups.

In moving forward, and realizing that we are in the sixth year of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent, which the Halifax Regional Municipality has recently proclaimed, it is imperative to begin a thorough and collaborative visioning process that will enable Halifax Regional Municipality to work with the descendants of Africville, partners and organizations to continue to address this historic issues.

It is equally important that the discussion broadens from honoring the cultural and historic aspects of Africville to considering economic prosperity for descendants including the potential economic development possibilities for the Africville lands.

Outcome Sought:

A report that outlines how we’ll approach a visioning process to address the future of the Historic Lands of Africville and issue an RFP in partnership with community representation that will seek a party who will lead this process in partnership with stakeholders.

Councillor Lindell Smith

District 8