

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**WAC 3-2024  
Tuesday, May 14, 2024  
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillors Ganann, Huson (Committee Chair); V. Brown, S. Corcoran, M. Holm, D. Katsmar, Z. Lachance, L. Littleton, S. Stemplowski, R. Unrau (Committee Vice Chair), E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: Councillor Morocco, R. Barrs

Staff: T. Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program Manager, C. Selig, Strategic Initiatives Manager, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy and Economic Development

Others Present: Councillor Craitor

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Committee Chair Huson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Living in Niagara 2023 Report**

Mary Wiley, Director of Engagement, Niagara Connects - Community Potential, provided Committee members with an overview of the Living in Niagara 2023 Report. This community-driven report, published every three years, spans eleven sectors based on the social determinants of health to provide a snapshot of the quality of life in the Niagara region, resulting in the identification of ten opportunities for action.

4.2 Niagara Region 2024-2029 Accessibility Plan

Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, provided information respecting Niagara Region 2024 - 2029 Accessibility Plan - Community Engagement. Topics of the presentation included:

- Purpose and Process
- Focus of Engagement
- Who we Heard From
- What We Heard
- Transportation
- Customer Service
- Information and Communications
- Public Spaces
- Employment
- Other Feedback
- Accessibility Plan - Next Steps

4.3 Attainable Housing Strategy

Cheryl Selig, Strategic Initiatives Manager, provided information respecting the Attainable Housing Strategy. Topics of the presentation included:

- Attainable and Affordable Housing
- Age Distribution of Niagara's Population 2001-2021
- Housing Starts by Unit Type
- Monthly Cost of Housing and Maximum Affordable Rent Level
- Attainable Housing Strategy Goals
- Attainable Housing Strategy Actions

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 WAC-C 1-2024

Motion - Inclusion of Women of Distinction Award for the Niagara Impact Awards

Moved by L. Littleton  
Seconded by D. Katsmar

Whereas the Niagara Impact Awards was created in 2020 to recognize community members who have made a positive impact on life in Niagara; and

Whereas expanding the awards to include a Women of Distinction Award is consistent with the objectives of the Women's Advisory Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to provide information to the Committee on the development of a Women of Distinction Award as part of the Niagara Impact Awards, including recommendations for adjudication.

**Carried**

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 PDS 12-2024

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report

Moved by Councillor Ganann  
Seconded by Z. Lachance

That Report PDS 12-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2023 Progress Report, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

7.2 WAC 2-2024

Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - March 19, 2024

Moved by M. Holm  
Seconded by V. Brown

That Minutes WAC 2-2024, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on March 19, 2024, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Policies/Procedures Respecting Accommodations for New Parents

Sharon Corcoran, Committee member, enquired about Niagara Region policies and procedures respecting workplace accommodations for new parents. Councillor Huson, Committee Chair, requested that Human Resources staff be invited to a future Women's Advisory Committee meeting to provide information respecting the Region's policies.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Councillor Huson  
Committee Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Deputy Clerk

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk