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**2023-24 HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
@ HALIFAX MARRIOTT  
HARBOURFRONT HOTEL**

**JUNE 20, 2024  
8:45 – 10:30 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cory Bell, Chair	President & CEO, Lindsay Construction
Donna Alteen, Vice Chair	CEO, Time + Space Media, Ltd.
Dr. Alice Aiken	Vice President, Research & Innovation, Dalhousie University
Sarah Buckle	Partner, Sustainability & Climate, Deloitte
Carrie Cussons	President & CEO, Events East Group
Cathy Deagle Gammon	Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
Scott Farmer	Deputy Minister, NS Department of Economic Development
Patrick Fitzgerald	Partner, Cox & Palmer
Andrea Forbes-Hurley	Managing Partner, KBRS
Mike Johnston	President & CEO, REDspace
Nicola Ray Smith	Senior Vice President, Atlantic Region, Scotiabank
Anita Swamy	Vice President, Operations, Medavie Blue Cross
Mike Savage	Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality

**Regrets:**

Waye Mason	Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
Captain Andy MacKenzie	Base Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic
David Landrigan	General Counsel & Vice President, Business Development, Emera
Chuck Maillet	Vice President, Nova Scotia, ACOA
Cathie O'Toole	CAO, Halifax Regional Municipality
Vinita Savani	Regional President Atlantic Provinces, RBC

**Staff:**

Wendy Luther	President & CEO
Tanya Walters	Corporate Liaison

**WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER & ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

W. Luther called the meeting to order at **8:45 a.m.**

- W. Luther welcomed guests and opened the 2023-24 Annual General Meeting of the Halifax Partnership.

**Opening Remarks – Mayor Mike Savage**

- W. Luther welcomed Mayor Mike Savage to the stage. The Mayor acknowledged that we are in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. A warm thanks was extended to Wendy Luther, Cathie O'Toole, CAO, as well the Mayor acknowledged some new faces with us today.
- Members of Regional Council were acknowledged, including Councillors Hendsbee and Cleary.

### ***The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.***

- C. Bell took to the stage and provided remarks. He spoke to the continued growth happening in our city and with the growth, there are growing pains. The 5-year economic growth plan, People. Planet. Prosperity., is so meaningful during this time of growth as it emphasizes building a more inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Halifax for all. The focus in these areas will result in a more vibrant Halifax where everyone thrives. Equally important in this growth is the ANS Road to Economic Prosperity's five-year strategy.
- C. Bell spoke to Halifax Partnership's unique public-private model and the importance of the private sector in funding, guiding and championing economic development across our region.
- C. Bell extended a warm thanks to our Board members and our Investors, and business and community leaders.
- A special thank you was extended to Mayor Mike Savage for his vision and leadership over his three terms in office.
- A thank you was also extended to Wendy Luther, President and CEO and the Halifax Partnership team.

### **Regular Order of Business**

- The Chair noted e-mail notices were sent to Halifax Partnership's Investors and community stakeholders.
- Information packages were provided electronically and on our website. The package included the following:
  1. Agenda
  2. 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes
  3. Draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2024
  4. 2024-25 Slate of Directors for approval

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

***N. Ray Smith moved, S. Buckle seconded*** approval of the June 20, 2024, Annual General Meeting Agenda and the June 29, 2023 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **2. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Carrie Cussons, Chair, Audit and Risk Committee provided the Committee report, including:

- As stated in the financials, Halifax Partnership received a clean audit report. There were no negative findings by the Auditors, and in the opinion of our Auditors, our financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Association.
- The Association is reporting a bottom-line surplus of revenue over expenditures for the year of \$47,166 resulting in a very strong balance sheet, with cumulative equity (reserve) balances available to help mitigate risk related to unforeseen events or changes in the economic environment as required by the Association's Reserve policy.
- C. Cussons extended a special thanks to her fellow Committee members for their ongoing commitment: Dr. Alice Aiken, Deputy Mayor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Mike Johnston and Nicola Ray Smith. Thanks to each of you for your ongoing contributions and guidance on the Audit and Risk Committee.

***A. Forbes-Hurley moved, S. Buckle seconded*** approval of Halifax Partnership's Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2024. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- C. Bell proceeded with the appointment of the Auditors for Halifax Partnership and asked for a motion to approve the re-appointment of EY Chartered Accountants as the Partnership's auditor until the close of the next annual meeting.
- EY is a founding Investor in Halifax Partnership.
- In attendance today from EY: Pamela Achenbach, Partner and Tim Mitchell, Senior Manager.

***C. Cussons moved, A. Swamy seconded*** the motion to re-appoint Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants as the Partnership's Auditors until the close of the next annual meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- P. Fitzgerald, Committee Chair, presented the Corporate Governance Committee Report.

- For 2024-25, there are three confirmed vacancies on the Board of Directors, resulting from the following departures:
  - **Cory Bell** – Completed his fourth and final term on the Board.
  - **Vinita Savani**– Did not reoffer for another term due to changes in her role with her current employer.
  - **David Landrigan** – Did not reoffer for another term due to changes in her role with his current employer.
- On March 28 a call for nominations was issued with a closing date of April 19. The Committee met on April 25 to review the submissions and put forward the following slate of candidates for the 2024-25 fiscal year:
  - **Donna Alteen** – CEO, Time & Space Media Ltd.
  - **Patrick Fitzgerald** – Partner, Cox & Palmer
  - **Dr. Alice Aiken** – Vice President, Research & Innovation, Dalhousie University
  - **Sarah Buckle** – Partner, Sustainability & Climate, Deloitte
  - **Carrie Cussons** - President & CEO, Events East Group
  - **Cathy Deagle Gammon** – Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
  - **Andrea Forbes-Hurley** – Managing Partner, KBRS
  - **Mike Johnston** – Founder & CEO, REDspace
  - **Ken MacLean** – Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
  - **Waye Mason** – Councillor, Halifax Regional Municipality
  - **Nicola Ray Smith** – Senior Vice President, Atlantic Region, Scotiabank
  - **Chris Ronald** – Regional President, Atlantic Canada, RBC
  - **Chris Smith** – Executive Vice President, Finance, NS Power, Inc.
  - **Anita Swamy** – Senior Vice President, Operations, Medavie Blue Cross

The following members be re-appointed as ex officio to the Board of Directors:

- **Mike Savage** - Mayor, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Cathie O’Toole** - Chief Administrative Officer, Halifax Regional Municipality
- **Chuck Maillet** - Vice President, Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- **Captain Andy MacKenzie** – Base Commander, Maritime Forces Atlantic
- **Scott Farmer** – Deputy Minister, NS Department of Economic Development

#### **Appointment of Officers:**

The Corporate Governance Committee recommends the extension of terms for the following Officers to the Board of Directors:

- **Donna Alteen** – Chair
- **Patrick Fitzgerald** – Vice Chair

C. Bell recommended members accept the recommendations of these appointments. As per the Bylaws, all appointments are effective until the next annual meeting or until their respective successors are elected or appointed.

**A. Aiken moved, M. Johnston seconded** the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Committee to accept all appointments effective until the next annual general meeting or until their respective successors are elected or appointed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Bell provided the following remarks:

- Welcomed Donna Alteen as incoming Chair and acknowledged she is the first female Chair of the Halifax Partnership Board of Directors.
- Board Members were asked to stand so attendees can thank them for their hard work, dedication, and for being champions for our city.
- The work of the Emerging Leaders and Innovators Advisory Board, created in 2022, was commended. The last two years provided an opportunity to discuss topics focused on governance, strategic plans and programs, and topics identified by the Advisory Board Chair and members. It was agreed, however, to discontinue the current structure as outlined in the Terms of Reference and have staff revisit and reimagine what is next for this group and other young leaders in our city.

Katie Newcombe, Chair, Emerging Leaders and Advisory Board came to the stage to share insights and learnings from the past two years and a special thank you was extended to the Advisory Board members, Board members and the Halifax Partnership team.

C. Bell provided special thanks to K. Newcombe and each of the Advisory Board members for their energy, dedication and support over the past two years. We look forward to seeing what is next for these young leaders.

Before closing, C. Bell extended a warm thank you and gratitude to our two departing Board members, Vinita Savani and David Landrigan. A donation will be made on their behalf to their charity of choice. Vinita and David were unable to join us today.

#### **Message from Donna Alteen, Incoming Chair**

As incoming Chair, D. Alteen shared her appreciation for the ongoing great work that the Halifax Partnership team does to foster a city that is welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and growing. Some challenges come with growth, but work is being done through the five-year economic strategy, People. Planet. Prosperity. to address these issues. There has been an incredible turnaround since the Ivany Report 10 years ago, and special thanks was extended to Mayor Savage for his vision and leadership for HRM. A heartfelt thanks was extended to Cory Bell for his leadership and guidance and for bringing his entrepreneurial spirit and attitude to every meeting. D. Alteen hopes to keep his innovative approach alive during her term as Board Chair. Appreciation was extended to W. Luther and her team for their dedication under W. Luther's guidance.

The regular order of the Annual General Meeting business closed at **9:29 a.m.**

#### **4. REMARKS – WENDY LUTHER**

W. Luther provided remarks and spoke to the activities of 2023, including many accomplishments to celebrate. She noted for guests to scan the QR code on their table for a more comprehensive overview of the past year. Partnering for Success is at the heart of everything we do and is the theme for today's AGM. One of the Partnership's highlights last year was the awards received in September 2023 for the best economic development organization in the world, among several other awards recognizing the world's best economic development work. We are very proud of this achievement.

In the 2023 spring/summer Halifax Partnership staff worked diligently with over 300 businesses directly impacted by the wildfires in the Hammonds Plains/Upper Tantallon communities. In July 2023, our team shifted their focus to support businesses impacted by the flooding.

Warm appreciation was extended to the following:

- Halifax Partnership's team for their work over the last year.
- Departing Board members David Landrigan and Vinita Savani and wishing them all the best in their new roles.
- Katie Newcombe and the Emerging Leaders and Advisory Board members for their work and commitment.
- Welcomed Donna Alteen to her new role as Board Chair.
- Congratulations and a warm welcome to our new Board members Chris Smith, Chris Ronald and Ken MacLean.
- Sincerest gratitude to outgoing Chair Cory Bell for his contributions to the Board of Directors where he spent eight years offering his time, energy and expertise.

#### **5. BUILDING HALIFAX PANEL**

Today's meeting provided an opportunity to bring together a panel to discuss "Building Halifax". Joining us were:

1. Cory Bell, President & CEO, Lindsay Construction
2. Jason Brunt, President, Clayton Developments Ltd.
3. Phil Fraser, President & CEO, Killam Apartment REIT

Guest panelists were asked to introduce themselves, their business, including the scale and scope of current business, and how many more units/buildings/projects they anticipate bringing on in the coming three years.

## 6. CLOSING

W. Luther provided closing remarks and extended thanks to everyone for attending today's AGM. Appreciation was extended to the panelists, those in attendance including our Board of Directors, Investors and partners in the community. This ongoing support is appreciated. Lastly, W. Luther thanked her team members for their work and dedication to the organization and our City.

W. Luther encouraged guests to get involved whether it be attending our events, utilizing the tools and data that we provide and becoming a Connector. Grateful to everyone in driving a successful and prosperous Halifax for all.

The meeting was adjourned at **10:30 a.m.**

*Tanya Walters*

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T. Walters, Corporate Secretary

June 19, 2025

Date