



## WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

March 4, 2014

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 5:35 pm in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fiona McFarlane, Vice-Chair  
Kamal Basra  
Genesa Greening  
Jarrah Hodge  
Ingrid Kolsteren  
Erica Pinsky  
Rhonda Sherwood  
Marion Smith  
Julie Wong

**ABSENT:** Wendy Williams, Chair (Leave of Absence)  
Margarita Pinillos

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jennifer Dawkins, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services,  
Staff Liaison  
Andrea Radlovacki, Intern, Women's Advisory Committee  
Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison  
Commissioner Niki Sharma, Park Board Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

#### Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Jarrah Hodge  
SECONDED by Kamal Basra

THAT Wendy Williams be granted a leave of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Jarrah Hodge  
SECONDED by Kamal Basra

THAT the Minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on November 12, 2013, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 1. Presentation - Recruitment and Retention of Female Firefighters

Captain Messenger and Lieutenant Baker, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, provided a presentation on recruitment and retention of female firefighters noting the following:

- Fire Life Safety Education and the Recruitment and Outreach Department were amalgamated resulting in limited staffing and resources in 2013;
- Currently, there are 21 female firefighters and 779 male firefighters;
- In 2013, 35 of 588 applications were from women and of those none were hired;
- Statistics on the retention of female firefighters are not available;
- Education and outreach will be a main focus in 2014;
- The goal is for the physical standards to remain the same for males and females;
- Possible focus on harassment, cultural and gender sensitivity training in the future.

Captain Messenger and Lieutenant Baker also responded to questions.

The Committee agreed to continue discussing this matter at the next meeting.

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## **VARY AGENDA**

*The Committee agreed to vary the agenda in order to deal with Item 6 next, followed by Items 3, 7 and 10, prior to the remaining agenda items. For clarity, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.*

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## 2. Affordable Child Care

Fiona McFarlane noted that she and Marion Smith and Andrea Radlovacki met with MLA Sam Sullivan to discuss child care in BC, specifically the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC's \$10 a Day Child Care Plan. Ms. McFarlane noted the conversation focused on the challenge of funding. Ms. McFarlane also noted the Committee received a thank you letter from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates for endorsing their campaign.

The Committee discussed their potential role in promoting affordable childcare.

Councillor Reimer agreed to arrange for staff to brief the Committee, at their next working session, on what the City has done with regard to childcare.

**3. Potential Joint Meeting with the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee**

The Committee discussed holding a Regular meeting in April in order to have a presentation from the Murdered and Missing Women Coalition. Committee members from the Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee will also be invited to attend.

MOVED by Jarrah Hodge  
SECONDED by Fiona McFarlane

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee hold a Regular Meeting on April 8, 2014, and change their previously scheduled September 9, 2014, meeting to a working session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**4. Remarkable Women, Park Board Event**

The Committee discussed the Park Board's Remarkable Women event taking place on March 8, 2014, at the Roundhouse, and members were asked to RSVP by Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

**5. Transportation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group**

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

**6. Trans and Gender-Variant Inclusion Working Group**

Drew Dennis, Trans and Gender-Variant Inclusion Working Group member, provided a presentation on their recommendations for the Vancouver Park Board to make parks and recreation facilities more inclusive. She noted the recommendations will be available for community review by March 17, 2014, and the final recommendations will be going to the Park Board on April 28, 2014.

MOVED by Genesa Greening  
SECONDED by Ingrid Kolsteren

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee supports the Trans and Gender-Variant Inclusion Working Group's recommendations in principal, as presented at the Women's Advisory Committee meeting on March 4, 2014, and the Committee is encouraged about the impact these recommendations would have for the safety of women and girls.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **7. Screening of the Film Miss Representation**

Jenn Dawkins noted the screening of "Miss Representation" will take place on March 30, 2014, at 2:00 pm, at the Rio Theatre, and tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. She also noted there will be a panel discussion after the movie and partnerships to help sponsor the event are being considered.

## **8. Welcoming Communities Summit**

Andrea Radlovacki and Rhonda Sherwood provided an overview of the Welcoming Communities Summit held March 4, 2014, which highlighted the "Newcomer's Guide to Vancouver" and "First Peoples - A Guide for Newcomers".

## **9. Gender Budgeting**

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

## **10. Street Lighting Motion**

The Committee discussed street lighting in Vancouver.

MOVED by Fiona McFarlane  
SECONDED by Jarrah Hodge

WHEREAS

The Women's Advisory Committee is concerned with the street lighting issue in the City of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee supports the Seniors Advisory Committee's motion passed on November 15, 2013, regarding improvements to street lighting in Vancouver;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee looks forward to cooperating with the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee on this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **11. City for All Women Initiative**

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

## **12. Announcement - Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton**

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

**13. New Business**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Jarrah Hodge  
SECONDED by Kamal Basra

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 7:49 pm.

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