



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 10, 2015

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 5:52 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Miranda Mandarino, Chair
Erin Arnold
Desaraigh Byers
Lindsay Clark
Anastasia Gaisenok
Sharon Lau
Niki Sharma
Rhonda Sherwood, Vice-Chair
Julie Wong*

ABSENT: Terran Bell (Leave of Absence)
Andrea Canales Figueroa (Leave of Absence)
Fiona McFarlane (Leave of Absence)
Miriam Palacios (Leave of Absence)
Erica Pinsky (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
Commissioner Catherine Evans, Park Board Liaison
Deb Gale, Manager, HR Business Partnerships, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Acknowledgement

The Chair welcomed members to the Committee and recognized the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations.

The Chair also acknowledged the safe space in which the meeting occurs.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Niki Sharma
SECONDED by Sharon Lau

THAT Terran Bell, Andrea Canales Figueroa, Fiona McFarlane, Miriam Palacios and Erica Pinsky be granted leaves of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Erin Arnold
SECONDED by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT the Minutes of the September 1, 2015, Women's Advisory Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Presentation - Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

Kiran Marohn, Assistant Chief, Professional Standards, Planning and Policy Development, provided a verbal presentation regarding female firefighters, including the following:

- Currently 21 female and 779 male firefighters in Vancouver;
- Barriers for women entering the profession;
- Programs to encourage youth;
- Outreach resource constraints;
- Separate washrooms in 70% of Fire Halls;
- The culture of the profession and how it can lead to problems for women.

Ms. Marohn also responded to questions.

2. Presentation - South False Creek Seawall Improvement Project

David Rawsthorne, Civil Engineer, Active Transportation, provided a presentation on the South False Creek Seawall Improvement Project, including background, project goals, key strategies, recommendations, and project timelines. Mr. Rawsthorne also responded to questions.

3. Subcommittee Updates

a) Women's History Month

i. Update on October 15, 2015, event

Commissioner Evans and the Chair briefed the Committee on the success of the October 16, 2015, event and noted the positive feedback that was received.

ii. Request from the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport

The Chair informed the Committee that the CAAWS proposed co-hosting a leadership workshop with the City. Deb Gale, Staff Liaison, agreed to follow-up.

b) Leadership

Rhonda Sherwood provided an update on their research to date and noted they are looking at next steps.

c) Violence Against Women

Desaraigh Byers provided an update and noted they are currently researching to formulate next steps. Erin Arnold advised the subcommittee is aiming to work with other City Committees and various organizations in the community.

d) Pay Equity

Niki Sharma provided an update and noted they are gathering information for future recommendations on this matter.

e) Young Women

Anastasia Gaisenok provided an update and noted members have been appointed and the subcommittee is in the initial stages of determining and organizing their work.

4. Budget Workshop Update

Desaraigh Byers and Rhonda Sherwood informed the Committee of the City's Budget Workshop they attended and noted the workshop was high level and staff did not use gender budgeting in their analysis.

The Committee agreed to follow-up on how gender budgeting could be part of the City's budget process.

5. Information and Updates

a) December 8 - Meeting and Social Check-in

The Chair reminded the Committee the December 8, 2015, working session will take place at a member's home and a potluck will follow.

b) COV's Gender Equality Strategy

The Chair asked the Committee to review the City's "Gender Equality Strategy", and noted this will be an item on the agenda at the next working session.

c) Engaging with Local Women's Organizations

The Committee agreed to engage with local women's organization in the Community. It was noted that the Violence Against Women subcommittee had created a list of organizations and Desaraigh Byers agreed to type out the list and circulate it to the Committee.

6. Action Item Updates

a) Reflections from Member Survey

None.

b) Thoughts from Previous Working Session on Hiring Practices/Job Descriptions

The Committee discussed the letter sent by Women Transforming Cities to Council, regarding the hiring of the City Manager. The Committee agreed to research the matter further before making any recommendations.

7. 2016 Meetings Schedule

The Committee discussed meeting dates for 2016.

MOVED by Erin Arnold
SECONDED by Niki Sharma

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the following schedule of meetings and working sessions:

ALL TUESDAYS	
January 12	Regular Meeting
February 9	Working Session
March 15	Regular Meeting
April 12	Working Session
May 10	Regular Meeting
June 14	Working Session
July 5	Regular Meeting
No meeting in August	
September 13	Working Session
October 25	Regular Meeting
November 15	Working Session
December 6	Regular Meeting

All Regular meetings to take place in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. New Business

a) Council Liaison Updates

Councillor Reimer provided an update on Syrian refugees settling in BC. She encouraged members to go to the following websites for more information:

<http://issbc.org/>

<http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/help-refugees.aspx>

b) First Call BC

Anastasia Gaisenok noted that First Call, BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, will be launching their 2015 Child Poverty Report card at 9:30 am on November 24, 2015, at 733 Beatty Street. They will also be hosting a webinar on November 25, 2015, from 12-1 pm which will give an in-depth review of the data in the report card.

c) Business Cards and Buttons

Rhonda Sherwood noted the Committee now has business cards and they will be distributed after the meeting. She also noted that the Committee's buttons will be ready for the next Working Session.

d) Published Article

Commissioner Evans noted that Niki Sharma had an article published in the Huffington Post regarding gender balance in the Federal Cabinet.

e) Documentary

Anastasia Gaisenok informed the Committee that she has released a documentary entitled "The Price of Reunion or Lessons in Happiness". She asked members to email her for more details.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Niki Sharma
SECONDED by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 7:39 pm.

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