



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 17, 2017

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on January 17, 2017, at 5:34 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Miranda Mandarino, Chair
Erin Arnold
Terran Bell
Desaraigh Byers
Andrea Canales Figueroa
Lindsay Clark*
Sharon Lau
Fiona McFarlane
Najmah Mohamed
Christine O'Fallon
Miriam Palacios
Shirley Ross*
Niki Sharma
Rhonda Sherwood, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Julie Wong

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
Deb Gale, Director, HR business Partnerships, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Maria Castro, 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

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Christine O'Fallon
SECONDED by Shirley Ross

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting held on December 6, 2016, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Lindsay Clark absent for the vote)

1. Strategic Plan Update

The Committee reviewed their strategic plan, and also considered the following in review:

- Women's health and well being
- Integration of the Young Women Subcommittee with other subcommittees
- Gender Equality Strategy Update follow up
- Exit interview for departing members and welcoming process for new members

2. Liaison Updates

a) Council

Councillor Reimer informed the Committee she will be attending a speaking engagement at the Green Cities Conference in Sydney, Australia, next month. She also noted that staff are currently preparing an update to Council in March, regarding the Gender Equality Strategy.

It was also noted that an upcoming motion to Council will be considered, which supports a workshop for frontline organizations to provide support for the families and loved ones of missing and murdered women and girls, and how the organizations, the City and other levels of government can best provide that support.

Councillor Reimer also noted the process of recommending nominees to Civic Agencies for the term beginning March 1, 2017, has been completed. She also responded to questions.

b) Park Board

None.

c) School Board

None.

Deb Gayle announced the plans for the City of Vancouver's International Women's Day event to be held on March 6, 2017. The Committee explored ideas for the event, and were asked to provide feedback to the Chair, by the end of January.

3. Questions for Liaisons

Councillor Reimer responded to questions pertaining to the recruitment and selection process for new members to Civic Agencies. The Chair agreed to contact the Deputy City Clerk for more information regarding the yearly recruitment schedule.

The Chair shared Commissioner Evan's response in regard to the lack of lighting and security in Vancouver parks. It was noted that parks are open until 10 pm. The Committee will further discuss this matter with the Park Board in the new term.

4. Subcommittee Updates

a) Leadership

None.

b) Violence Against Women

Christine O'Fallon informed the Committee of her new role as Chair of the subcommittee, and welcomed any thoughts and views on the matter.

c) Gender Wage Gap

Lindsay Clark noted that the best practices document is currently being compiled. Ms. Clark also noted that there will likely be an increased work flow in the upcoming months as result of the update to the Gender Equality Strategy.

d) Young Women

The Chair informed the Committee that the Young Women Subcommittee will continue until February 28, 2017.

5. Updates from the Chair

The Chair informed the Committee that the research document on best practices is to be submitted to Therese Boullard for compilation, by February 15, 2017. The Chair also noted that a working session on the Gender Equality Strategy will be held on January 31, 2017, at 5:30 pm in Town Hall.

The Chair and Erin Arnold agreed to draft a letter to the Translink Board, to address the safety issues of women and girls on transit. It was also noted that Ms. Arnold is in the process of drafting a letter to the Minister of Education and to Vancouver School Board (VSB) Official Trustee Dianne Turner, regarding the VSB liaison to the Women's Advisory Committee.

The Chair also noted that a draft letter will be prepared in response to a request for feedback, received from Liberal MP for Mississauga-Lakeshore (Ontario) Sven Spengemann, in regard to his private member's bill on establishing "National Women's Week", in the first week of October.

Desaraigh Byers provided an update on a recent meeting regarding the budget. It was noted that efficiencies have increased within Development, Buildings and Licensing, with the support of extensive concierge services. In addition, Councillor Reimer and Niki Sharma commented on the continued work on gender budgeting.

6. New Business

a) First Call Gala

Rhonda Sherwood noted that First Call will be celebrating their annual fundraising gala. She encouraged members to attend the event, and if interested, to let her know.

b) Hot Pink Paper Campaign

Christine O'Fallon noted that students Canada-wide will be participating and examining key issues and priorities outlined in the "Hot Pink Paper Campaign", as part of the "Women Transforming Cities" collaboration with the University of Guelph.

Ms. O'Fallon further suggested that student involvement with the Women's Advisory Committee regarding the "Hot Pink Paper Campaign" be explored in the new term.

c) Women Transforming Cities

Miriam Palacios provided an update on "Women Transforming Cities", and noted the organization is progressing toward an international framework networking tool for shared ideas, best practices and goals.

Adjournment

MOVED by Erin Arnold
SECONDED by Desaraigh Byers

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Shirley Ross absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:34 pm.

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