



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 21, 2017

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on March 21, 2017, at 5:33 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Miranda Mandarino
Erin Arnold
Terran Bell
Andrea Canales Figueroa
Lindsay Clark
Missy Johnson
Rebecca McNeil
Christine O'Fallon
Paola Quiros
Shirley Ross
Margot Sangster
Rhonda Sherwood
Andrea Thompson

ABSENT: Desaraigh Byers
Najmah Mohamed

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Catherine Evans, Park Board Liaison
Deb Gale, Director, HR Business Partnerships, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Maria Castro, Meeting Coordinator

Acknowledgment

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 Rhonda Sherwood
SECONDED by Erin Arnold

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting held on January 17, 2017, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Following due process, the Women's Advisory Committee elected the following as Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2017-2018 term:

Miranda Mandarino, Chair
Rhonda Sherwood, Vice-Chair

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At this point in the proceedings Miranda Mandarino assumed the Chair.

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2. Presentation - Gender Equality Strategy Update

Therese Boullard, Equal Employment Consultant presented an update on the Gender Equality Strategy and, along with Anne Nickerson, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Program, responded to questions.

A sequence of events was presented, as follows:

- a. Framing up the work
- b. Review, research and consultation
- c. Update Council
- d. Public input
- e. Finalize updated strategy
- f. Report to Council

Committee members were encouraged to bring forward any items for consideration in the Gender Equality Strategy update.

It was also noted that the Gender Equality Strategy public forum will take place at Creekside Community Centre on April 19th, from 4 pm to 8 pm.

3. Gender Equality Strategy

This item was discussed under Item 2.

4. Letter to Liberal MP for Mississauga-Lakeshore (Ontario) Sven Spengemann

The Committee passed a motion to approve a letter regarding Liberal MP Sven Spengemann's Private Member's Bill on establishing "National Women's Week".

MOVED by Shirley Ross
SECONDED by Christine O'Fallon

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee send a letter to Sven Spengemann, Liberal MP for Mississauga-Lakeshore (Ontario), in response to his request for input regarding his Private Member's Bill on "National Women's Week".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Spokesperson for the Women's Advisory Committee

The Committee passed a motion to elect the Chair as spokesperson for the Women's Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Erin Arnold
SECONDED by Shirley Ross

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee assign the Chair as the designated spokesperson on behalf of the Women's Advisory Committee, for the 2017-2018 term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Review of Previous Committee Activities

The Chair reviewed the Committee's accomplishments and achievements in its previous term, and in preparation of their strategic plan, requested Committee members brainstorm possible areas of interest to focus on for the upcoming term. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

7. Buddy System for New Members

Five Committee members agreed to volunteer as peer mentors or "buddy" to the five new members, as they transition into their roles in the Committee.

8. Committee Orientation

The Meeting Coordinator reviewed member obligations and expectations, referring to the Procedure By-law, Code of Conduct policy and Guidelines for Civic Agencies. The Meeting Coordinator also advised a revised Guidelines document is in the process of being finalized.

The Staff Liaison advised that a new Committee Work Plan template has been developed. The Committee agreed to use the April working session to complete the Work Plan document, by the May 31st deadline.

9. Meeting Schedule

The Committee discussed rescheduling the May 9, 2017, regular meeting, as well as holding a working session in August. The Meeting Coordinator agreed to follow up with the Deputy City Clerk in this regard. The meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 will be approved at the next regular meeting.

10. New Business

a) Liaisons

The Committee discussed the importance of having respective Committee liaisons present at their meetings, and agreed to continue recording follow up questions for them in the event of an absence.

b) Subcommittees

The Committee agreed that the current subcommittees will continue to operate until such a time as stated below.

MOVED by Andrea Canales Figueroa
SECONDED by Shirley Ross

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee's (WAC) current subcommittees (Leadership, Ending Violence Against Women, Gender Wage Gap and Young Women) will continue to operate until decisions are made on WAC's priority areas and required subcommittees at the April, 2017, meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

MOVED by Margot Sangster
SECONDED by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: May 11, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Town Hall - Room 115
Main Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 7:40 pm.