



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 12, 2013

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 5:32 pm in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Williams, Chair
Kamal Basra
Ingrid Kolsteren
Fiona McFarlane, Vice-Chair
Marion Smith
Julie Wong

ABSENT: Krissy Darch (Sick Leave)
Genesa Greening (Leave of Absence)
Jarrah Hodge (Leave of Absence)
Margarita Pinillos
Bif Walker (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Dawkins, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services,
Staff Liaison
Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
Trustee Sophia Woo, School Board Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Julie Wong
SECONDED by Marion Smith

THAT Genesa Greening, Jarrah Hodge and Bif Walker be granted leaves of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Fiona McFarlane
SECONDED by Marion Smith

THAT the Minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on September 10, 2013, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. International Women's Day Events

a) March 6, 2014, Committee Event at City Hall

The Committee discussed the logistics of the event they are planning at City Hall on March 6, 2014, in recognition of International Women's Day.

b) March 8, 2014, Park Board Event

Wendy Williams, Chair, provided information on the Park Board's luncheon, being hosted by the Committee, for the Remarkable Women finalists. She also noted staff from Parks and Recreation provided information on nominating a Remarkable Woman.

2. Screening of the Film Miss Representation

Julie Wong and Jenn Dawkins, VFRS, noted they are looking at screening rights for "Miss Representation", and they are currently inquiring about a venue and a date for the event.

3. Transportation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group

Marion Smith noted she distributed the summary notes (*on file*) from the October 2, 2013, Transportation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting, to all Committee members. She also provided an overview of the purpose of the Transportation Advisory Group and her role of adding a feminist lens to the discussions.

4. Women's History Month - October 17, 2013

Kamal Basra and Fiona McFarlane debriefed the Committee on the event which took place at City Hall on October 17, 2013. They noted some of the speakers were unable to attend, however the event was a success and the stories heard were powerful and moving.

The Committee discussed providing childcare at the Women's History Event in 2014.

5. Remarkable Women Nomination

Wendy Williams informed the Committee the process for nominating a woman for the Park Board's Remarkable Women poster series.

The Committee discussed potential nominees and agreed to nominate several women. Wendy Williams, Kamal Basra, Marion Smith and Councillor Reimer agreed to do the paper work required to nominate the women.

6. Council of Councils Meeting

Wendy Williams noted the purpose of the Council of Councils meeting on November 14, 2013, is to provide an opportunity for various City Committees to see the work being done by other Committees. She also noted Jarrah Hodge created the Committee's presentation for the Council of Councils meeting.

7. Letter to Province Regarding the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

The Chair noted no response had been received to the letter sent to a representative of the Premier of BC, requesting to facilitate a discussion between the Premier, or a member of her staff, and a member of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. The Committee agreed to have the Chair write a follow up letter.

Fiona McFarlane and Marion Smith agreed to arrange a meeting with Sam Sullivan, MLA for Vancouver - False Creek, to discuss childcare.

8. Street Lighting in Vancouver

Fiona McFarlane provided an overview of the meeting arranged by the Seniors Advisory Committee regarding a motion being proposed entitled "Prioritizing Improvements to Street Lighting in Vancouver". She noted members of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the LBGTO Advisory Committee also attended. It was noted the draft motion would be sent to Committee members for comment and Ms. McFarlane agreed to forward the comments to the Seniors Advisory Committee member who is leading this initiative.

9. E-Mail - Internship Request

The Committee discussed a request from an international student looking to do her internship with the Women's Advisory Committee. The Meeting Coordinator agreed to follow up with the City's Human Resources Department to inquire about protocol for an Advisory Committee having an intern.

10. Homelessness Action Week 2013

Councillor Reimer noted the week was expanded from previous years and it was a success.

11. Update from Park Board Representative on Facility Usage

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

12. Meeting Dates for 2014

The Committee discussed the 2014 meeting schedule.

MOVED by Kamal Basra

SECONDED by Fiona McFarlane

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the following regular meeting dates for 2014:

- Tuesday, March 4, 2014 - Committee Room 1, Third Floor
- Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - Business Centre, 2nd Floor
- Tuesday, September 9, 2014 - Committee Room 1, Third Floor
- Tuesday, November 4, 2014 - Committee Room 1, Third Floor

All meetings to occur at 5:30 pm at Vancouver City Hall.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee also selected six working session dates for 2014.

13. Notice of Information

a) National Anthem

The Committee, along with a member of the public, discussed the "Restore Our Anthem Campaign".

MOVED by Marion Smith

SECONDED by Ingrid Kolsteren

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee request Vancouver City Council to support the change of language from "our sons" to "us" in Canada's National Anthem, as proposed by the Restore Our Anthem campaign.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) New Report from the Canadian Centre for Elder Law

The Chair noted she has information on the new report from the Canadian Centre for Elder Law (CCEL), entitled "Your Words are Worth Something: Identifying Barriers to the Well Being of Older Women". She agreed to distribute the information to any members who request it.

14. New Business

a) Thank you from the City of Edmonton

Correspondence was circulated from the City of Edmonton thanking the Committee for information they provided regarding the establishment of the Women's Advisory Committee, as the City of Edmonton is hoping to establish a similar Committee.

b) December 6, 2013, Candlelight Vigil

Ingrid Kolsteren provided information on the December 6, 2013, Candlelight Vigil, taking place at Thornton Park, Main Street at Terminal Avenue, in recognition of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

c) Presentation at a Future Meeting

Jenn Dawkins, Staff Liaison, agreed to invite Carol Swant, Captain of Recruitment and Outreach, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), to a meeting early in 2014, to discuss female representation at VFRS.

The Committee adjourned at 7:33 pm.

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