



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 4, 2014

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, at 5:30 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Williams, Chair
Anastasia Gaisenok
Ingrid Kolsteren
Erica Pinsky
Paria Saremi (via teleconference)
Rhonda Sherwood
Marion Smith

ABSENT: Kamal Basra (Leave of Absence)
Jarrah Hodge (Leave of Absence)
Fiona McFarlane, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence)
Julie Wong (Leave of Absence)
Commissioner Niki Sharma, Vancouver Park Board
Trustee Sophia Woo, Vancouver School Board

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Erica Pinsky
SECONDED by Marion Smith

THAT Kamal Basra, Jarrah Hodge, Fiona McFarlane and Julie Wong be granted leaves of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Ingrid Kolsteren
SECONDED by Rhonda Sherwood

THAT the Minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on June 17, 2014, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Welcome Guests

Following brief introductions of all meeting attendees, Wendy Williams, welcomed Thea Bracewell, a member of World Pulse, who was present as an observer.

Ms. Williams also noted there would be a guest speaker, Linda Diano, presenting under New Business.

2. Notes from September 9, 2014 Working Session

Wendy Williams reviewed the notes from the working session held on September 9, 2014, including the old rock garden and plaque dedicated in 1938 to Frances E. Willard, founder of World Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), uncovered by recent windstorms. Ms. Willard had come to BC to help found provincial WCTU - possible tie-in to women winning the vote in BC.

3. Notes from October 7, 2014 Working Session

The items contained in the notes of the October 7th working session have been included on today's agenda.

4. Women's History Month Event

Marion Smith reported on the success of the Women's History Month event held on October 20, 2014, in the Vancouver City Hall Council Chamber. The Women's Advisory Committee presented an evening celebrating local women in music, which featured artists such as Sibel Thrasher, The Re:Sisters and the Katari and Sawagi Taiko Drummers, as well as speakers David Duke on Jean Coulthard and Linda Uyehara Hoffman on the origin of Taiko drumming in Vancouver. Ms. Smith advised she has submitted the expenses relating to this event for payment.

It was suggested that any future events of this nature be recorded for historical purposes, and that Women in Technology be included as part of the Women's History Month event.

5. Capital Plan

Wendy Williams referred to the three Capital Plan borrowing questions on the ballot for Vancouver's 2014 local general election and noted that childcare is included in the "Community facilities" component of Question 3 (Community and civic facilities). Questions 1 and 2 are Parks and recreation and Public safety and public works, respectively.

Committee members noted the City of Vancouver is doing a great job in promoting the election, including the design of promotional materials, social media. It was requested this message be passed along to the Chief Election Officer and the Meeting Coordinator agreed to do so.

6. Women's Advisory Committee Facebook Page

Rhonda Sherwood provided an update on the Committee's Facebook Page, noting it has been very successful. Individuals who have viewed the Facebook Page were impressed with the content provided -e.g., description and general information about the Committee (some were not aware there was a Women's Advisory Committee in Vancouver); how to participate on the Committee; posting information (feedback) to the Facebook Page.

7. Murdered and Missing Women Letter Campaign

Wendy Williams provided an update on the status of the Murdered and Missing Women Letter Campaign, and advised she has sent an e-mail to Mona Woodward, with no response at this time.

Rhonda Sherwood advised members of an online campaign hoping to raise awareness and push Prime Minister Harper on the issue of murdered and missing women.

Ingrid Kolsteren reminded members of the Annual Shoe Memorial at the Vancouver Art Gallery on December 6, 2014, which is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

8. Young Women Civic Leaders

Anastasia Gaisenok provided an update on the Young Women Civic Leaders project and the presentation to the City of Surrey, followed by a discussion with the Surrey team. The discussion included, to name a few, gender equality strategy, respectful work policy, civic engagement policies. The Surrey team has asked their Council to establish a Women's Advisory Committee, similar to Vancouver's, and WAC has been advised Surrey Council will consider the proposal. Coquitlam has declined.

Ms. Gaisenok advised the project ends mid- November and enquired as to how the work could be continued.

In recognition of the project's end, an event will be held on November 19, 2014.

9. Election - November 15, 2014

Wendy Williams encouraged members to vote on November 15, 2014, or on any of the advance voting days.

10. Equity and Inclusion in our Cities

Wendy Williams provided a brief status on this project and advised she has not received an update from Anne Nickerson, the City of Vancouver's Director of Equal Employment Opportunity. Once the information has been received from Ms. Nickerson, it will be included in the slides for the Council of Councils meeting.

11. 2015 Federal Election / Oxfam: One Voice, One Vote Campaign

Wendy Williams and Anastasia Gaisenok provided a brief overview of this national campaign, noting an alliance of women across the country are calling on the Federal Government for a debate on women's issues.

12. Healthy City Strategy

Wendy Williams provided an update on this report, which was considered and approved by Council at the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on October 29, 2014.

Ms. Williams advised members she sent a "thank you" to Council for their support of the Healthy City Strategy.

For the first time the City will be using an intersectional lens.

Vancouver is an incredibly diverse city. A "for all" lens will help ensure that we pursue initiatives that are both universal for all citizens and focused on specific populations most vulnerable to health inequities. Further, we will resist the push to view these vulnerable populations in a monolithic way, by recognizing the complexity of the lived realities of individuals who experience marginalization on multiple and intersecting grounds**.

** The lived experience of being, for example, a female Aboriginal elder, is not ever one of being only female, or only Aboriginal, or only an elder - we experience our lives in intersecting ways. Rather than apply a single category lens such as a "women's lens" or an "Aboriginal lens", or an "LGBTQ lens" or "a disability lens" or a "senior's lens" or a "people of colour lens", we are using an intersectional "for all" lens with the aim of reflecting and addressing this complexity.

13. Council of Councils

Wendy Williams asked for volunteers to assist with the three-slide presentation to the Council of Councils on November 24, 2014, and, in this regard, Ms. Williams requested three items that speak to the work of the Committee.

Discussion ensued and ideas were received, including:

- Meeting with Police Chief and Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee regarding the Murdered and Missing Women Letter Campaign;
- Purpose of WAC as defined in its Terms of Reference;
- WAC's accomplishments;
- What WAC will continue to do;
- Equities WAC has achieved.

Ms. Williams asked for volunteers to work with her on a report she has drafted. Ingrid Kolsteren offered to edit the report and Anastasia Gaisenok will work on the PowerPoint.

14. After the Election

Wendy Williams reminded members of the Council of Councils meeting on November 24, 2014, and advised those who wished to continue serving on WAC that they submit their applications.

15. New Business

Wendy Williams welcomed Linda Diano, who then introduced herself as the founder of The Power in Sport. Ms. Diano sought the Committee's support in declaring 2015 - The Year of Women in Sport. North Vancouver City and Burnaby have made their declarations.

MOVED by Erica Pinsky
SECONDED by Marion Smith

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee endorse the concept of Women in Sport in 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Rhonda Sherwood
SECONDED by Ingrid Kolsteren

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 7:28 pm.

* * * * *