



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 5, 2016

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on July 5, 2016, at 5:38 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

- PRESENT:** Miranda Mandarino, Chair
Erin Arnold
Terran Bell
Sharon Lau
Fiona McFarlane
Christine O'Fallon
Miriam Palacios
Shirley Ross
Niki Sharma
Rhonda Sherwood, Vice-Chair
Julie Wong
- ABSENT:** Andrea Canales Figueroa (Leave of Absence)
Desaraigh Byers
Lindsay Clark (Leave of Absence)
Najmah Mohamed (Leave of Absence)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Trustee Joy Alexander, School Board Liaison
Deb Gale, Manager, HR Business Partnerships, Staff Liaison
- CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Maria Castro, Meeting Coordinator

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 Christine O'Fallon

THAT Andrea Canales Figueroa, Lindsay Clark and Najmah Mohamed be granted leaves of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Niki Sharma
SECONDED by Christine O'Fallon

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 2016, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Presentation

Marion Pollack and Tahia Ahmad of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW), provided a presentation on "Women Accessing Transit and Their Agency to Make Change", which included the CRIAW's findings and suggestions on how the Committee can help facilitate change.

The Chair circulated the presentation to the Committee members. (*On file in the City Clerk's Office*).

2. Debrief of Transit Information and Next Steps

The Committee discussed matters related to transit and next steps for advocating women's safety and accessibility awareness on transit. Ideas and suggestions included holding public forums and events, and lobbying a similar system to "3-1-1", whereby service requests are tracked from intake to resolution.

The Chair noted that moving forward, the Committee will explore writing a letter to the Translink Board and along with the Board's response, is to be included in the Gender Equality Statement, if appropriate. The Chair also noted she will connect with Councillor Reimer, for further direction and guidance on the matter, as well as following up with JoAnn Woodhall of Translink.

3. Updates from the Chair

The Chair provided an update on the Gender Equality Strategy and will connect with Councillor Reimer for next steps on the matter. The Committee also discussed opportunities to support the development of the Gender Equality Statement.

The Committee discussed options for supporting the City of Vancouver in celebrating International Women's Day and will continue discussions with the City.

4. Liaison Updates

a) Council

No update.

b) Park Board

No update.

c) School Board

Joy Alexander provided an update on the Ministry of Education's budget, and noted that the Vancouver Board of Education rejected the proposal on June 29, 2016. She also noted that a forensic audit and full review of the Vancouver School Board is underway.

Ms. Alexander also advised of the reinstatement of the School Board's Mentorship Program, which matches students with volunteer mentors to complete a project in an area of mutual interest, such as engineering, photography and marine biology.

5. Subcommittee Updates

a) Leadership

The Committee discussed the matter in relation to the Gender Equality Strategy, and will consult with Councillor Reimer for further guidance and support. The Committee also mentioned they would invite volunteers interested in being involved in the Women's Advisory Committee and its subcommittees.

b) Violence Against Women

No update.

c) Gender Wage Gap

The Committee will work on next steps and recommendations to funnel into the Gender Equality Strategy review.

d) Young Women

No update.

6. New Business

a) Event

Niki Sharma announced an upcoming event inspired by the documentary "India's Daughter", which is based on the Delhi gang rape case. Ms. Sharma, along with Lorimer Shenher, who was the first detective assigned to the missing women investigation, will be guest speakers at the event.

Adjournment

MOVED by Rhonda Sherwood
SECONDED by Terran Bell

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, October 25, 2016
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

* * * * *

The Committee adjourned at 7:52 pm.

* * * * *