



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 23, 2018

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 5:34 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Rhonda Sherwood, Vice-Chair
Erin Arnold
Terran Bell
Missy Johnson
Rebecca McNeil*
Christine O'Fallon
Shirley Ross
Margot Sangster
Andrea Thompson

ABSENT: Desaraigh Byers
Andrea Canales Figueroa
Lindsay Clark (Leave of Absence)
Miranda Mandarino, Chair (Leave of Absence)
Najmah Mohamed
Paola Quiros (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Catherine Evans, Park Board Liaison
Trustee Joy Alexander, School Board
Deb Gale, Director, HR Business Partnerships, Staff Liaison
Jessica West, Young Women Committee

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Vice-Chair acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we give thanks for their generosity and hospitality on these lands.

The Chair acknowledged the safe space in which the meeting occurs.

Icebreaker

Committee members each spoke on the following:

- One highlight from working on the Committee;
- One outstanding item that the Committee should have worked on further; and
- One suggestion or recommendation for the next Committee.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Shirley Ross
SECONDED by Christine O'Fallon

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approves Leaves of Absence for Lindsay Clark, Miranda Mandarino, and Paola Quiros for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Shirley Ross
SECONDED by Andrea Thompson

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of September 25, 2018, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Presentation: Women's Equity Strategy Updates

Staff from Engineering Services, along with Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, provided an update on their department's progress in ensuring women's safety and needs are met in the neighbourhood planning and development processes. Staff noted the following:

- The City joined the UN Women's Global Flagship Initiative called "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces";
- Partnerships and collaboration;
- Education and awareness;
- Policies (Places for People Downtown and Family Friendly Housing);
- Data and information;
- Gender inclusive design principles.

Staff from the Equal Employment Opportunity Program updated the Committee on the progress of the recommendations from "Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028". Updates were given in the priority areas of intersectional lens, childcare, housing, women's safety, leadership and representation.

2. Safe Space Work

The Committee discussed the wording of their safe space message that is communicated to Committee members at the beginning of meetings. The history of the message was discussed and the idea of feeling safe versus comfortable. The Committee noted the word safe should be replaced with safer.

The Committee agreed that the incoming Women's Advisory Committee should review the safer spaces wording periodically.

3. New Business

a) Letter to Incoming Council

MOVED by Christine O'Fallon
SECONDED by Shirley Ross

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee agrees to send a letter to the incoming Council, encouraging the reinstatement of advisory committees and summarizing the three main issues brought to the Committee by the community regarding the Women's Equity Strategy;

FURTHER THAT the letter be drafted by Rebecca McNeil, with minor changes as agreed to by the Committee via email.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Rebecca McNeil absent for the vote)

b) Women's Equity Strategy Event Debrief

The Committee discussed their October 11, 2018, event in the Council Chamber, regarding the Women's Equity Strategy. Christine O'Fallon noted the event was a huge success and many great ideas were received from the conversations of participants. Erin Arnold agreed to set up a Goggle doc with information on the Women's Equity Strategy.

c) Free-Vending Tampon and Pad Dispensers Initiative

The Committee heard from Selina Tribe, Chair, Women in Engineering and Geoscience Division, Engineers and Geoscientists BC Instructor, Douglas College, and Parent Advisory Council Chair, Sir John Franklin Elementary School, who provided a verbal presentation on a free-vending tampon and pad dispensers initiative.

MOVED by Shirley Ross
SECONDED by Andrea Thompson

WHEREAS

1. It is acknowledged that people who menstruate are absent from school or other activities during their period because they cannot afford the pads and tampons needed;

2. A free-vending tampon and pad dispensers initiative will increase the health, welfare and dignity of all menstruating people in Vancouver, and signal that institutions and organizations welcome menstruating bodies;
3. A free-vending tampon and pad dispensers initiative would equalize the support given to the genders in managing normal bodily functions, and would go a long way to reducing the stigma of menstruation and period shaming;
4. Men's bathrooms contain all the single-use paper products needed for their functions, women's and universal bathrooms should contain the same level of support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the City of Vancouver work to get free-vending tampon and pad dispensers in schools, colleges, government service centres and homeless shelters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Rebecca McNeil absent for the vote)

Adjournment

MOVED by Margot Sangster
SECONDED by Terran Bell

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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