



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 18, 2025

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 5:34 pm, in the Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Ellie Lawson, Chair
Morrell Andrews
Nazma Lee
Serena Mohammed
Molly Needham
Alida Oegema Thomas, Co-Chair
Olga Shcherbyna*

ABSENT: Alaina Chun (Leave of Absence)
Katsy Concepcion (Leave of Absence)
Avani Patel (Leave of Absence)
Shirin Shushtarian (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Council Liaison
Insp. Kelly Risebrough, Vancouver Police Board Liaison
Gillian Guilment-Smith, Vancouver Park Board Liaison
Tanya Fink, Social Planner; Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Taimiya Khalid, Committee Clerk

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Alida Oegema Thomas
SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Alaina Chun, Katsy Concepcion, Avani Patel, and Shirin Shushtarian for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Olga Shcherbyna absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Ellie Lawson
SECONDED by Alida Oegema Thomas

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, September 23, 2025, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Olga Shcherbyna absent for the vote)

1. Presentation – Gastown Public Spaces Plan

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

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VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Alida Oegema Thomas
SECONDED by Morrell Andrews

THAT the Commission vary the agenda to deal with item 3. Liaison Updates, prior to item 2. Working Session Updates.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND BY
THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in chronological order

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3. Liaison Updates

Councillor Bligh provided an update and responded to questions and comments regarding the following motions:

- [Ensuring Continuity of the Women's Equity Strategy Following the Closure of the Equity Office](#)
- [Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#)

All liaisons present provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

2. Working Session Updates

The Chair provided a brief update on the working session held on October 21, 2025.

4. Subcommittee Updates

The Committee discussed the Childcare and Gender-Based Violence Subcommittees and next steps and agreed to assist with preparing Terms of Reference for a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Taskforce.

5. New Business

The Committee discussed matters related to membership changes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Serena Mohammed
SECONDED by Nazma Lee

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, January 06, 2026
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Microsoft Teams Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:27 pm.

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