



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**, at 5:35 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Amy Robichaud, Co-Chair
Haida Antolick
Vicki Bright
Jyotika Dangwal
Michelle Iversen
Nazma Lee
Serena Mohammed
Andaleeb Morales
Essya Nabbali*
Farron Rickerby
Elizabeth Samuels
Sairoz Sekhon
Andrea Thompson

ABSENT: Krysta Coyle
Anita Fellman (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Council Liaison
Councillor Melissa De Genova, Council Liaison
Trustee Lois Chan-Pedley, Vancouver School Board
Liaison
Sonmin Bong, Social Planner, Social Policy & Projects
Division

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

Acting Chair, Amy Robichaud, acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

* * * * *

VARY AGENDA

*MOVED by Haida Antolick
SECONDED by Serena Mohammed*

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee amends the Committee's agenda for today's meeting by moving Item 3 – Liaison Updates as the last item of business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Subsequently, it was

*MOVED by Elizabeth Samuels
SECONDED by Vicki Bright*

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approves the Committee's agenda for today's meeting, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Note: For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

* * * * *

Leave of Absence Requests

*MOVED by Elizabeth Samuels
SECONDED by Andrea Thompson*

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approves a leave of absence for Anita Fellman, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Improving Street Lighting in Vancouver

Duminda Epa, Manager, Traffic, Electrical Operations and Design Branch, provided a presentation on the current work in response to Councillor Lisa Dominato's Member's Motion entitled "Improving Street Lighting in Vancouver", as approved by Council at their [Council meeting on February 10, 2021](#), and also provided an update on staff's report back on the Outdoor Lighting Strategy that will be coming to Council in Fall 2021. Duminda along with Henry Hon, Electrical Engineer, Electrical Design, responded to questions.

2. Co-Chairs Election

Amy Robichaud volunteered for the role of Co-Chair and subsequently it was,

MOVED by Nazma Lee
SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee appoints Amy Robichaud to serve as Co-Chair until December 31, 2021;

FURTHER THAT the Women's Advisory Committee continues to hold elections in future Committee meetings for the additional position of Co-Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* * * * *

At this point in the meeting Amy Robichaud assumed the role of Co-Chair.

* * * * *

4. Work Plan Discussion

The Committee members discussed the results from the Women's Advisory Committee Work Plan Survey that captured each member's top five priority items for the Committee to focus on when creating the Committee's Work Plan. Following discussion on the top five priority items and the actions needed to implement them, the Committee members agreed to email the Co-Chair their top two choices for sub-committees from the following topics:

- Responsiveness to public health and crisis situations, harm reduction (including the role of policing);
- Intersectional lens in city planning and land use: Vancouver Plan, affordable housing;
- Climate resilience, adaptation, and response;
- Taking action on violence against women & marginalized genders: mMIWG, safety for sex workers, Safe spaces, UN Safe Cities initiative;
- Childcare and support for caregivers; and
- Hate and exclusion in the city: racism, anti-Indigenous hate, targeting of drug users, disabled people, unhoused people.

5. New Business

(a) Approval of Minutes – July 27, 2021

Committee member, Haida Antolick, provided additional details to the July 27, 2021, Minutes, regarding Item 4 – New Business, under a new heading, (b) Future Committee Meetings, noting the Committee agreed on the importance of ensuring equity when the Committee's future meeting schedule is created to ensure days of significance are taken into account and respected.

MOVED by Vicki Bright
SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approves the Minutes from the meeting of July 27, 2021, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(b) Invitation: City's Access to City Services Without Fear (ACSWF/AWOF) Policy: For Residents with Uncertain or No Immigration Status

The Co-Chair, highlighted the invitation received by all Committee members from Jennifer Reddy, who is leading the City's Anti-Racism and Cultural Redress portfolio, and who is inviting up to two committee members from each of the City's Advisory Committees, to join in a conversation and working group on access without fear policy and implementation, taking place on September 23. The Co-Chair noted that as part of this conversation, Jennifer has asked the Committee to discuss and identify their top two questions or curiosities when it comes to the City's AWOF policy and implementation. Subsequently, the Co-Chair agreed to collect the responses and share them with staff, as well as the names of the Committee members interested and able to join the discussion on September 23.

(c) Future Committee Meetings

The Committee members discussed topics to be included on future Committee meeting agendas, including the election of the additional role of Co-Chair and the continuing discussion and finalization of the Committee's work plan and sub-committees. Additionally, the Committee agreed to have bio breaks of 5 to 10 minutes included in all future meetings agendas.

3. Liaison Updates

Councillor De Genova noted that in response to Mayor Stewart's Member's Motion entitled "Supporting Gender Equity and Diversity in Vancouver City Council", and approved by Council at their [Council meeting on March 10, 2020](#), all City Councillors will have the opportunity to be interviewed this Fall as part of the annual Gender, Diversity, and Intersectional Audit, in order to examine how Vancouver City Council operates, and to make recommendations for policy, bylaw, and convention changes to promote gender, diversity, and intersectional equity in Vancouver City Council.

Councillor Bligh advised that Council meetings will remain virtual during September 2021 due to the increasing COVID-19 cases, and following updated Provincial guidelines, and also noted that Council is working on a plan of how to best move forward within these guidelines. Councillor Bligh highlighted the Vancouver Plan and that it is now in its final stages of its first iteration, with a Special Council meeting for the purposes of discussing the Vancouver Plan having been called by the Mayor on September 28, 2021. Councillor Bligh expressed the importance of engagement when creating the Vancouver Plan, and noted the City's goal of engaging with at least 100,000 Vancouver residents in the upcoming months, with an intersectional lens on the forefront of these discussions.

Sonmin Bong, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects, introduced the City's work on the United Nations Safe Cities and Safe Public Space initiative and encouraged Committee members to complete the [survey](#) by November 30, created to gain a deeper understanding of gender-based and sexualized violence and harassment in public spaces. Sonmin noted that an invitation from Jennifer Reddy is upcoming for engagement sessions on this dialogue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Elizabeth Samuels

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Essya Nabbali absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, November 09, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:28 pm.

* * * * *