



Hamilton

MINUTES: Status of Women Committee
Thursday, January 26, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 193, Hamilton City Hall

PRESENT: Adele Alfano, Denise Doyle, Amirah Hassan, Catherine Hughes,
Patti McNaney, Catherine Pead, Denise Spoelstra, Basharat
Tayyab, Baldeep Virk

REGRETS: Myra James, Heather Judson, Michelle Poirier, Uzma Qureshi
Councillor Brenda Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Maxine Carter, City of Hamilton
Ashley Pleasant, Sandra Krockner, McMaster University Gender
Studies

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members were welcomed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Denise Doyle declared an interest regarding Item 5.3 – Partnership with YWCA for 2012 Women of Distinction Awards.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amendments to the minutes were noted as follows:

Item 6.1 – Correction to spelling of Factor[e].

Item 6.1 – “work completed **to** the Chair” should be changed to “**through** the Chair”.

(P. McNaney/D. Spoelstra)

That the minutes from the November 24, 2011 meeting of the Status of Women Committee be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Committee members would like to follow up on the Workforce Census from the November 24, 2011 meeting. It appears data with respect to women’s issues was not received.

Maxine Carter will send the Workforce Census document and/or link to committee members for review. Further discussion to be held at the February 2012 meeting.

5. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

5.1 Workplan Updates

5.1.1 Survey

Committee members welcomed Ashley Pleasant and Sandra Krockner from McMaster University Gender Studies. Patti M. provided an overview of the Survey Subcommittee work to date regarding the development of the survey in collaboration with Gender Studies students Ashley Pleasant and Sandra Krockner. A workplan has been developed. There was an attempt to work with one of the shelters, however, timelines did not permit this. The preliminary goal of the survey is to obtain an assessment of municipal goals to provide direction to the Status of Women Committee's work going forward.

The 3 stages of the survey and the timelines are:

- develop questions (Survey Monkey) – end of February 2012
- dissemination
- analysis (Gender Studies) – final report by end of March 2012

Questions were posed to committee members for comments/feedback. What are we looking to find out / goals and where do we disseminate the survey?

Comments received included:

Goals & Objectives of Survey

- survey to have a gender focus similar to the gender analysis used by the City for All Women in Ottawa
- focus on municipal issues as we have the "ear of Council"
- access to employment & skilled trades
- domestic abuse, access to justice system & shelters
- lack of access to services & programs

Dissemination

- places of worship, grocery stores, recreation centres
- as a group, use our networks to get the word out
- link in with the many events taking place during International Women's Week
- develop a list of women's groups, shelters, women on Boards & Committees
- Women Abuse Working Group – more than 22 organizations sit around that table
- Aboriginal community

Members were asked to promote the goals of the survey and to encourage women to complete it. The Gender Studies students will take the survey to places they volunteer, i.e. Welcome Inn and the Needle Exchange Program.

5.1.2 Focus Outreach & Communications

Denise Doyle contacted Factor[e] regarding the work on the website, social media and updating of the brochure and circulated a draft of the brochure and postcard for discussion and comments. On the whole, members liked the new brochure & updated logo. Comments received included:

- change telephone number on both brochure & postcard
- meeting date & time on postcard
- should web address be on front or bolded
- need to review the goals section
- working group will bring back at draft for discussion

5.2 Draft Guideline for Absenteeism

This item was dealt with at a previous meeting. No discussion took place.

5.3 Partnership with YWCA for 2012 Women of Distinction Awards

Due to a conflict declared by Denise Doyle, Amirah Hassan assumed the Chair. Discussion took place regarding a letter received from YWCA Hamilton requesting a partnership between the YWCA Hamilton's Women of Distinction Awards and the Hamilton Status of Women Committee. YWCA Hamilton is requesting that the Committee take out a ½ page ad in the brochure at a cost of \$500.00.

(C. Pead/B. Virk)

That the Hamilton Status of Women Committee partner with the YWCA Hamilton's Women of Distinction Awards in hosting the event, and

That the Hamilton Status of Women Committee take out a ½ page ad in the Women of Distinction Awards' brochure at a cost of \$500.00.

CARRIED

Denise Doyle advised that the deadline for nominations is February 17, 2012.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 The Committee acknowledged the receipt of an application for committee membership from Katherine Kalinowski. Katherine expressed interest in joining the Hamilton Status of Women Committee.

(P. McNaney/B. Tayyab)

That the application form of Katherine Kalinowski to join the Hamilton Status of Women Committee be received and forwarded to Council for consideration and approval.

CARRIED

6.2 2012 City Budget

Staff will provide a list of the dates for public delegation presentations during City budget deliberations to committee members.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION SHARING

7.1 Building Health & Safe Communities: A Gender-Based Approach, Friday, February 17, 2012, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Sheraton Hotel.

7.2 Chocolate Fest, Thursday, February 9, 2012, Convention Centre

7.3 Muslim Women's Council Event was very successful. More than 100 women attended. The food, demos and musical show went over well.

7.4 International Women's Day, March 8, 2012. The Status of Women Committee plan to partner with a women's agency.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion **(C. Pead/B. Tayyab)**, the committee adjourned.