



Hamilton

**Minutes
Status of Women Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 28, 2021
6:00pm-8:00pm
Virtual Meeting**

Present: Autumn Getty, Stephanie Bertolo, Yulena Wan, Anna Davey, Deanna Allain, Jan Lukas

Regrets: Doreen Ssenabulya

Absent: Stephanie Frisina
Councillor Nann

Also Present: Betsy Pocop (staff liaison) Diversity & Inclusion Office
Taline Morris (Admin Assistant) Diversity & Inclusion Office

1. Land Acknowledgement

A. Getty provided the Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome/Introductions

A round of introductions and welcoming of members.

3. Approval of the Agenda

(A. Davey/Y.Wan)

That the Status of Women Committee approves A. Getty to facilitate today's meeting as a new chair has not yet been elected.

CARRIED

The following item(s) to be added to the Agenda:
Item 1- Y. Wan - The Women of Distinction Awards

(Y. Wan/S. Bertolo)

That Item 1 which refers to the Women of Distinction Awards be added to the January 28, 2021 agenda.

CARRIED

(S. Bertolo/ D. Allain)

That the Committee Elections (Item 13.1) be deferred to next month's meeting as 3 members are absent from today's meeting.

CARRIED

(D. Allain/ Y. Wan)

The Status of Women Committee approve the agenda of January 28, 2021 as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

(i) November 26, 2020

The following corrections are to be made to the minutes of November 26, 2020:

- To correct Item 4.1 which list's Committee Member's name J. Davey instead of A. Davey
- To edit previous minutes to capture that the Hamilton Status of Women Committee discussed supporting the women of distinction awards, as a part of the donation's discussions, but were informed by staff that it would be held over until the next budget period

(Y. Wan / A. Davey)

That the Status of Women Committee approves the minutes of November 26, 2021 as amended.

CARRIED

5. Communications

(i) Correspondence from Clerk's office regarding Citizen Committee reports (Item 5.1)

(D. Allain/Y. Wan)

That the Status of Women Committee receive the correspondence from the Clerk's office entitled Communications regarding Citizen Committee Reports.

CARRIED

6. Discussion Items

- (i) Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council- HIPC (Item 10.1)**

B. Pocop advised she has not received a response to date from the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) regarding if research ideas are still needed.

(ii) Donations (Item 10.1)

B. Pocop provided the following updates regarding the Citizen Committee Report regarding donations, previously discussed at the November 26, 2020 meeting;

- The citizen committee report regarding donations will appear on February 4, 2021 Audit, Finance & Administration (AF&A) Agenda. A. Getty as chair, is welcomed to attend
- The deadline for use of funds for 2020 has passed. Therefore, by the time the report gets in front of the Audit, Finance & Administration committee, the deadline will have passed. If it is still the committee's intention to fulfil those donations, they will likely have to pull the funds from the reserves.

A Getty inquired to understand why the funds cannot be used since the motion was made prior to the deadline. B. Pocop advised that because this request is outside the usual budgetary perimeters of the committee, there needs to be final approval from Audit, Finance & Administration AF&A Committee. Based on when the report will go to Audit, Finance & Administration AF&A committee for approval, the deadline for use of funds for 2020 will have passed. Therefore, the donation amounts would need to be pulled from the 2021 budget and reserve amounts.

Committee members expressed concerns about not being made aware of this process sooner and inquired if there can be any exceptions made. B.Pocop to bring inquire with the Clerk's office and report back to the committee.

Committee members also expressed concerns and frustrations about this process and conveyed that they were unaware that this request needed to get final approval from council as the committee initially requested guidance from the City and was given permission to make a one-time donation.

B.Pocop clarified that a Citizen Committee Report is typically developed because an item is going to council for approval. A committee is permitted to put forth a request, accompanied by a Citizen Committee Report which then needs to go to council for approval.

A. Getty stated she will attend next Audit, Finance & Administration (AF&A) meeting and will raise questions and concerns put forth by the committee.

A. Davey noted that while the previous minutes captures how the committee wanted to spend their money, it did not capture, that the committee had an understanding, that further approval from council would be required, which highlights a communication breakdown and the lack clarity felt by committee members today.

A. Getty inquired if she would be able to submit a letter, expressing the concerns of the committee, in addition to the discussions that will happen at Audit, Finance & Administration AF&A on February 4, 2021. B. Pocop to inquire and report back to the committee

(A. Davey/D. Allain)

That the Status of Women Committee supports A. Getty in creating a letter on behalf of the Status of Women Committee to the Audit, Finance & Administration (AF&A) committee with regards to the citizen committee report.

CARRIED

Committee members discussed whether or not to use 2021 funds to cover the donation amounts listed in the citizen committee report, in the event that use of the 2020 funds is not allowed.

(S. Bertolo/ Y. Wan)

That the Status of Women Committee will not to use 2021 funds to cover the donations amounts, if the use of the 2020 funds is not allowed.

CARRIED

(iii) Inviting Guest Speakers (Item 10.2)

Committee Members discussed gender-based budgeting and identified the need to learn more about the City's process for planning budgets and whether a gender-based approach is used during that process. The Status of women committee would like to send a request for a city staff to attend a meeting to discuss the City's budgeting process. B. Pocop to consult with the Clerk's office and/or Finance to determine where the request should be sent and report back to the committee.

(S. Bertolo/ Y. Wan)

That staff be directed to facilitate a presentation by Financial Services staff respecting budgeting process, and if they use a gender-based lens or if it's useful to do so.

CARRIED

(iv) Women of Distinction Awards (Added Item1)

Y. Wan provided background information that the Status of Women Committee use to organize the Women of Distinction Awards before the YWCA took over. The event provides an opportunity to fundraise as well as provide recognition to women in the City of Hamilton. The 2021 event is entitled, The Women of Distinction Award; The courage of Women. Historically, the Status of Women Committee has supported the event by attending the event and purchasing a table at the event. This year's event will be virtual and instead of purchasing a table, one can purchase a viewing room. A viewing room of 10 people will cost \$1250. The event will take place on Thursday March 4th in the evening

(A Davey/ S. Bertolo)

That the Status of Women Committee will allocate \$1250 from their 2021 budget to purchase a viewing room from the YWCA for the Women of Distinction Awards

CARRIED

Y. Wan agreed to organize reservations and logistics for the Status of Women Committee for the event. Committee members in attendance agreed to communicate via email to organize attendance at the event.

(v) Workplan – Working Group (Item 10.3)

The status of Women Committee would like to recruit more diverse committee members. Committee Members inquired to understand whether or not they could informally, via email, communicate with the LGBTQ committee to get feedback on the process the LGBTQ committee used for recruitment. B. Pocop to investigate if it is possible.

(vi) Terms of Reference (Item 10.4)

Deferred until next month

(vii) Equity ToolKit - Sections 1&2 (Item 10.5)

Copy of handbook to be disseminated to committee members.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(Y. Wan/ S. Bertolo) That the Status of Women Committee meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2021

CARRIED