



Hamilton

**Minutes**

**Status of Women Advisory Committee**

**Thursday, February 25, 2021**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall All electronic meetings can be viewed at: City's YouTube Channel:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>**

**Virtual Meeting**

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

**Regrets:** Anna Davey Doreen Ssenabulya

**Absent:** Stephanie Frisina, Councillor Nann

**Also Present:** Betsy Pocop (staff liaison) Diversity & Inclusion Office

Taline Morris (Admin Assistant) Diversity & Inclusion Office

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**1. Welcome/Introductions**

A round of introductions and welcoming of members.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

A. Getty provided the Land Acknowledgement

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The following item(s) to be added to the Agenda:

Item 1- J. Lukas - International Women's Day.

Item 2 – J. Lukas -Menstrual Products Pilot Project.

**(J. Lukas/S. Bertolo)**

That Item 1 which refers to International Women's Day be added to the February 25, 2021 agenda.

**CARRIED**

**(Y. Wan/ D. Allain)**

That Item 2 which refers to the menstrual products pilot project be added to the February 25, 2021 agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**i. January 28, 2021**

**(S. Bertolo/Y. Wan)**

That the Status of Women Committee approves the minutes of January 28, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. Discussion Items**

**i. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Item 10.1)**

- **Donations:** A. Getty updated that she did not write a letter of support to accompany the citizen committee report as the issues would be addressed by City staff that oversee the financial procedures at the City.
  
- A. Getty attended the February 4, 2021 Audit, Finance & Administration meeting. There were concerns raised regarding organization receiving donations from two separate sources. Also, concerns raised that committees should not be making donations, as there is an attempt at the City to streamline financial contributions to organizations. There were discussions on whether a donation is possible. Final decision to be made during the city's 2020 budget meeting, at which time funds may be set aside to fulfil the donation request made by the Status of Women Committee. Results may not be available until the end of March.
  
- There was also discussion that unused funds that are returned to the City could be reallocated to satisfy donation request. This would be reviewed after 2020 budget review meeting.
  
- B. Pocop further clarified that the issue of whether volunteer advisory committees can make donations was referred to the governance committee. There are several community organizations are already receiving grants from the city through the community enrichment fund and must disclose if they are receiving funds from

another part of the city. As such, receiving a donation from a volunteer advisory committee could lessen the amounts received through the community enrichment fund. Therefore, the governance committee will review whether the donations fit within the guidelines.

- **Presentation on Budgeting.** A. Getty requested update on City staff member speaking with the committee about budgeting processes at the City. B. Pocop advised she has been in communication with the finance department; they have received the committee's request are able to present at a future meeting. After some discussion, committee members agreed to delay presentation until the April meeting to allow for more discussions on gender-based budgeting at the March meeting. Y. Wan agreed to take lead on finding materials for discussion.

**(J. Lukas/ Y. Wan)**

That gender-based budgeting be added as an agenda item for discussion at the March 25, 2021 meeting.

**CARRIED**

**(S. Bertolo/ J. Lukas)**

That the Status of Women committee would like to invite a staff member of the city to the April 22, 2021 meeting to discuss budgeting.

**CARRIED**

- **Women of Distinction Awards:** Y. Wan provided an update that the event has not happened yet however an email was sent inquiring who was interested in attending. More reporting to take place at next meeting following the event.
- **Contacting LGBTQ committee:** A. Getty inquired if staff was able to find out if the Status of Women Committee could contact the LGBTQ committee to inquire about their process for adding more diversity to their committee. B. Pocop stated she contacted the clerk's office and received direction that typically a citizen committee report would be required however, another option is for committees to communicate through the staff liaisons.

**ii. Election of Chair and Vice- Chair (Item 10.2)**

Prior to beginning the elections, B. Pocop reviewed process of elections with committee members.

D. Allain nominated A. Getty as Chair of the Status of Women Committee. S. Bertolo expressed interest in being Chair of the Status of Women Committee. No other nominations were put forth. A. Getty declined nomination for Chair. S. Bertolo accepted the nomination. S. Bertolo elected Chair of the Status of Women Committee for the 2021 term, uncontested.

A. Getty nominated D. Allain as Vice-Chair of the Status of Women Committee. S. Bertolo nominated A. Getty as Vice-Chair. No other nominations were put forth. A. Getty declined nomination for vice-chair. D. Allain accepted the nomination. D. Allain elected Vice-Chair of the Status of Women Committee for the 2021 term, uncontested.

No elections were made for recording secretary.

**iii. All Advisory Event Feedback (Item 10.3)**

Staff advised that the Clerk's office is planning an All Advisory Committee Event. This event would provide an opportunity to learn about other committees, as well as share information about their committees. Staff advised the Status of Women committee, that dates have not been set, however, the Clerk's office is looking for feedback on whether this is something the committee would be interested in. Committee members indicated that this would be a valuable event and would provide opportunity for collaboration.

**iv. Inviting Guest Speakers (Item 10.4)**

Committee Members to think about speakers they would like to invite to future meetings. Further discussion to take place next meeting.

**v. Workplan – Working Group (Item 10.5)**

S. Bertolo and A. Getty to work together to determine the information required from the LGBTQ committee regarding adding more diversity to the Status of Women Committee. Once information has been gathered, it will be forwarded to

B. Pocop, who will communicate with the staff liaison for the LGBTQ committee on behalf of the Status of Women committee.

**vi. Terms of Reference (Item 10.6)**

Deferred to allow group members not in attendance to provide feedback.

**vii. International Women's Day Event (Added Item 1)**

J. Lukas advised that the International Women's Day's committee is hosting an online event on March 8, 2021. The Status of Women committee has historically supported this group. A. Getty inquired to understand, and staff advised that this type of sponsorship would be permissible for the status of Women committee. Committee Members agreed to provide \$500 sponsorship to the international women's day and request committee logo be displayed.

**(D. Allain/J. Lukas)**

That the Status of Women Committee provide \$500 sponsorship to the international Women's Day Event.

**CARRIED**

**viii. Menstrual Products Pilot Project (Added Item 2)**

J. Lukas advised that the menstrual product pilot project is a program that aims to put menstrual products in 5 recreation centres throughout the City. The request is to have the chair of the Status of Women Committee make a statement to the media in support of the menstrual product pilot project.

**(J. Lukas/Y. Wan)**

That the Status of Women committee support S. Bertolo as chair, putting forth a statement on behalf of the Status of Women Committee, in support of the Menstrual product Pilot Project.

**ix. Equity ToolKit - Sections 1&2 (Item 10.7)**

Deferred due lack of time.

**(Y. Wan/ J. Lukas)**

That the Status of Women Committee meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for March 25, 2021