



Hamilton

Minutes

Status of Women Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 28, 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**

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

Regrets: Jan Lukas

Also Present: Kim Manderson - Staff Liaison
Jessica Bowen – Diversity and Inclusion Office
Taline Morris - Admin Assistant

1. Welcome/Introductions

A round of introductions and welcoming of members.

2. Ceremonial Activities (Item 1)

S. Bertolo provided the Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda (Item 2)

Added items to 10.3: Motion to Advise Council to Reinstate the Covid-19 Encampment Protocol be added under Discussion Items.

Added Item 10.4: Elect more Women Conference be added under Discussion Items.

(S. Bertolo/Y. Wan)

That the Agenda of October 28, 2021 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes (Item 4)

i. Minutes of September 23, 2021

(S. Bertolo/D. Allain)

That the Status of Women Committee approves the Minutes of September 23, 2021 as presented.

CARRIED

5. Discussion Items (Item 10)

i. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Item 10.1)

(a) Name Change and Terms of Reference

Report: S. Bertolo provided an update that the report will be addressed at the November 4th Audit, Finance and Administration Meeting.

(b) Motion Respecting Adding More Committee

Members: Staff provided an update that this motion cannot be actioned as there is less than 12 months in the remaining council term. Committee members will encourage members in their communities to apply in hopes of starting next term with a larger committee.

ii. 2022 Budget (Item 10.2)

Committee members reviewed the committee's 2022 draft budget. There is \$5142 currently in reserve. The committee will request \$5000 from reserve for special events and project cost to support women and non-binary initiatives such as the elect more women conference.

(A.Getty/Y. Wan)

That the Status of Women Committee's 2022 budget be approved.

CARRIED

iii. Motion to Advise Council to Reinstate the Covid-19 Encampment Protocol (Added Item 10.3)

D. Allain put forth a motion to advise council to reinstate the Covid-19 Encampment Protocol. Committee members discussed the recommendations and indicated, they would be willing to complete a citizen committee report or a delegation request to strengthen the committee's recommendations.

(D.Allain/ A. Davey)

WHEREAS, there is presently not enough shelter space or affordable housing units to support houseless neighbors in Hamilton, with a waitlist for affordable housing exceeding 6,000 applications.

WHEREAS, women face increased risk for houselessness resulting from intimate partner violence.

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, racialized, and newcomer women and nonbinary communities have been significantly impacted by job loss and unemployment due to Covid-19 and systemic

barriers.

WHEREAS, encampments are not the problem, but a symptom of an extensive and years long housing and affordability crisis across Canada, notably in Hamilton as one of the most unaffordable cities in the country.

WHEREAS, the encampment protocol enabled a person-centred approach to connecting individuals with resources and services in the absence of accessible supports and housing solutions

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Status of Women Committee advisory committee recommends Council reinstate the encampment protocol
- (b) That the Status of Women Committee advise Council to continue prioritizing funding toward building and making available more affordable housing units, in addition to identifying temporary shelter solutions for the incoming cold winter; and
- (c) If requested by council, the Status of Women Committee can prepare a citizen's report on the need to reinstate on the COVID-19 encampment protocol and other supports for houseless communities.

CARRIED

iv. Elect More Women Conference (Added Item 10.4)

Committee members discussed sponsoring the Elect More Women Conference, as they have historically done. The conference is organized by the YWCA and aims to provide resources and support for women in politics.

(S. Bertolo /A. Getty)

That the Status of Women committee will partner with the YWCA and Councillor Nann's office for the 2022 Elect More Women Conference.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment (Item 15)

(A. Getty/ Y. Wan)

That the Status of Women Committee be adjourned at 7:09p.m.