

Somerville Commission for Women

Regular Meeting

March 20th, 2018

7:00pm

Cross Street Center

165 Broadway

Present: Jessica Alter, Co-Chair
Kristen Strezo, Co-Chair
Kat Rutkin
Maggie Norcross Devin
Marlena Erdos
Patricha Paul
Kaitlyn Dmyterko (Arrived 7:05)
Cristina DeWeese
Sumayya Essack
Melissa Alfone

Absent: Daisy Monsalve
Stephanie Goodell

Staff Members in Attendance: Chris Hosman

Guests: Katie Wallace
Maura Basard
Jason Behrens

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting was called to order by Jessica Alter at 7:15 p.m.

Previous Minutes: The February Meeting Minutes were approved based on a motion made by Kristen Strezo and seconded by Maggie Norcross Devin.

Steering Committee Update: Discussed applying for an alternative Eastern Bank Grant in the amount of \$2500 which has a rolling deadline and may be more in line with increasing accessibility and eliminating barriers to program participation.

Discussion that Nancy Bacci, Director of Human Services, and Chris Hosman, Community Services Manager, met with Police Sergeant Michael Perrone, and Maureen DiPaolo, Victim/Witness Advocate, both with the Police Department's Family Service Unit, regarding identifying future partnerships between the Somerville Police Department and the Somerville Commission for Women. Reviewed potential partnerships around Domestic Violence Prevention and information sharing.

Update that the letter regarding Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures was sent to the Personnel Department and the letter regarding curriculum that addresses Body Autonomy was submitted to the School Committee.

Co-Chair Election Nomination: Kristen Strezo announced that she will run again, seconded by Kat Rutkin. Kristen addressed SCW progress, Domestic Violence prevention and reaching out to young women in her speech.

Cristina DeWeese announced that she will be running, seconded by Maggie Norcross-Devin. Cristina addressed Domestic Violence, the Immigrant community, Public Health and SomerViva

Sub-Committee Review

Discussion regarding the re-structuring of Sub-Committees. Policy Sub-committee has 7 members, Education has 4 and Outreach has 3. Could policy be brought to the larger SCW meeting if there is such interest? Could Task Forces be brought to the larger SCW meetings? Should Sub-Committees be defined by topics or structure? Topic or Delivery? For example, three topic based such as Women's Rights, Financial Literacy and Domestic Violence? Or three based on delivery such as Outreach, Education and Policy?

Addressed the necessity of Sub-Committee and Task Force meetings to adhere to Open Meeting Law.

Task Force Updates:

Women's History Month Event logistics discussed.

Financial Literacy training Volunteers are needed. Jess, Kristin and Cristina all volunteered to assist.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Policy Sub-committee has chosen Domestic Violence as their area of focus. Discussed partnering with the police and RESPOND INC.

Education Sub-committee announce John Hancock is interested in providing an investment workshop. Looking towards next Bystander training and revisiting Advocacy Training.

Outreach Sub-Committee has created a partnership document and a flyer template. Interested in reaching out to meeting attendees that have not elected to return to meetings to gather data. Discussed updating the handbook,

Late Agenda Items:

H.1110 AN ACT ESTABLISHING regional commissions on the status of women and girls was passed, which was filed in part by State Representative Christine Barber.

Adjourned:

Based on a motion made by Kristen Strezo, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00. Seconded by Melissa Alfone.