

Somerville Commission for Women

Regular Meeting

May 15th, 2018

7:00pm

Cross Street Center

165 Broadway

Present: Cristina DeWeese, Co-Chair
Kristen Strezo, Co-Chair
Kat Rutkin (Arrived 7:10)
Maggie Norcross Devin
Patricha Paul
Kaitlyn Dmyterko (Arrived 7:05)
Jessica Alter
Melissa Alfone
Stephanie Goodell

Absent: Daisy Monsalve
Sumayya Essack

Staff Members in Attendance: Chris Hosman

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting was called to order by Kristen Strezo at 7:10 p.m.

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

Memorial Day Parade Update: Arrive by 2:00 pm. Kristen and Kaitlyn plan on attending. Kat and Melissa may be able to attend. Discussed disseminating information at parade regarding upcoming Salary Negotiation Workshop. Chris will print 4 by 6 flyers and send email with detailed parade instructions.

Steering Committee Update: Discussion took place regarding the Well Being of Somerville Report. "Female headed families with children are disproportionately impacted with the highest rates of poverty at 43.2% based on 2015 data" Discussion regarding how the commission could partner or address this. Proposed ideas included creating a resource guide if one is not already available and partnering with organizations currently working with this population to drill down and find out what the needs are. Current plan is to gather further information and report back in June and invite Doug Kress and Lisa Brukilacchio to July meeting.

Task Force Updates: Task force to address Sexual Harassment letter sent to Personnel Department met. Minutes were distributed prior to meeting. Discussion of summary of minutes. June 13th task force meeting planned pending location. Discussion regarding Personnel partnership. Email Candace Cooper director of Personnel regarding availability of the pending new policy.

Salary Negotiation Task Force update. 4 commissioners will be attending. Doors Open at 5:30 pm. Discussion took place regarding

importance of personal outreach. Food and drink donations have been acquired.

Quorum Review

2 Commissioners have moved. Discussion regarding Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee and the time it may take to bring on new commissioners. Discussion regarding changing the bylaws to define quorum as "half plus one" of current commissioners as opposed to "half plus one" the number of seats. Jessica Alter announced this will be her last meeting as she has accepted the position of LGBTQ Coordinator for the City of Somerville. Based on motion made by Stephanie Goodell and seconded by Kristen Strezo, the commission will amend the bylaws to "half plus one" of the number of commissioners serving if allowable.

Recruitment

Discussion took place regarding the importance of recruitment. Find out why people attend one meeting and do not return. Initial meetings were very procedural. Maggie Norcross Devin volunteered to reach out and make personal connections after meetings to follow up. Discussion regarding having a mixer, something more social. Improve structured outreach and follow up after events.

Sub-Committee Structure

Discussion regarding the challenges of following Open Meeting Law. Discussion regarding identifying spaces and centralizing information regarding spaces. Research whether booking space can be done electronically through centralized system. Discussion regarding standing meetings vs. meetings scheduled monthly. Open Meeting Law discussion was tabled.

Late Agenda Items:

School Committee Response to Information Request. Kristen Strezo made a motion to create a Task Force to address response. Kat Rutkin Taylor seconded. Vote did not take place

Adjourned:

Based on a motion made by Kristen Strezo and seconded by Maggie Norcross Devin, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.