



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Agenda published on July 11th at 9:45 a.m.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Somerville Commission for Women may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89967822621?pwd=b1an13vhU6vdB2cl2qTmg4CmiRm>

Lbn.1 Meeting ID: 899 6782 2621

Passcode: 109929

By phone:

• +1 646 558 8656 US

• +1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 899 6782 2621

Passcode: 109929

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Recording at 7:03pm

Amanda confirmed quorum is 8 people; Kim asked for written documentation supporting that because it is in conflict with our ordinance; Amanda says this number is per the clerk's office; Kim expressed appreciation for RSJ's work and support, but verbally disagreed with the number required for quorum because of the conflict; Amanda says quorum is per open meeting law, not our ordinance (we should be able to operate regardless of how many people

are currently appointed)

Called to order at 7:08pm

Adrienne: Chair calls names and members verbally confirm they are present; hand raise gesture will suffice if they cannot confirm verbally

2. Roll Call

Kim Sheridan	Present
CC Morone	Present
Katelin Firth	Present
Alex Barbat	Present
Ayerim Decena	Present
Dani Dees	Absent
Ashley Guevara*	Present
Patty Thistle	Present
Bobbi Van Gilder	Absent
Melissa Canu*	Present
Jenn Harrington*	Present
Geneva Issacson	Absent
Nykia Leach	Absent
Rachel Tam*	Present
Neeraj Wadhera*	Present

***not sworn in yet**

Members of the public, Also in attendance: Adrienne Pomeroy RSJ, Elyse Best HRC/resident, Amanda Nagim-Williams RSJ, Leonor Galindo RSJ

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- Feb 2025 minutes were taken by RSJ and posted to website without approval
- CC moved to approve minutes, and commissioners present confirmed

- APPROVED; leave posted as they are, no edits required

4. Commissioner Recruitment and Staffing Update

- All 15 commission seats will be filled in 2025 for the first time since 2012
- There have been many logistical challenges rebuilding the commission
- Chair will send an email update later this week to applicants who were not selected and ask that they remain involved as volunteers and apply again in the future as seats vacate
- Amanda shared screen slides: Would like to keep space in the agenda for RSJ in each meeting
 - Coordinator role is frozen; hoping to hire the role with a start date in January; wants to engage commissioners in recruitment/interview process; Leonor (Angie) Galindo will provide support in the interim, PTO will be flagged to chair
 - Appointment process as outlined by mayor's office and intergovernmental affairs, see slide
 - As of today; 11 appointed, 8 still in onboarding, 3 have been sworn in; more will be sworn in tomorrow; there is a tracker document that Chair should have access to, but doesn't
 - RSJ's role is to ensure commissions have the tools and training to be successful
 - Promotional/social media support Haakon Brooks; RSJ did trainings with HRC and plans to hold the same ones for SCW
 - CPD created by state statute and has access to a different source of funding than HRC and SCW; Amanda will explain how to establish our budget/fund for approximately \$5,000
 - City does not do reimbursements (ever at all), everything has to be done ahead of time through RSJ
 - RSJ affirms their commitment to supporting our work and mission; RSJ is external and internal facing and will do a training for SCW to explain the department
 - Amanda will share slides with Katelin for the record

5. Upcoming Election of Chair and Co-Chair

- Call special meeting next week to elect co-chairs; commissioners who have completed onboarding will be eligible to attend and vote (as confirmed by the clerk); Chair will step down
- Chair will implement a google nomination form to write a bio about themselves and self-nominate ahead of the meeting; everyone will have opportunity to review ahead of the special meeting
- Chair shared screen to display form draft to collect feedback
 - CC affirmed that the form looks good and appreciates the equitable approach to folks being able to self-nominate
 - Alex: how far in advance can we view information? (Yes, circulate today, nominate by Friday, give the weekend to view) When will special meeting be called? (circulate doodle poll for availability to confirm quorum)
 - CC: we follow open meeting, not by law; special meeting can be virtual, but must be about a specific subject, be an emergency, and provide public notice at least 48 hours in advance
- From Jenn in chat (for context of the doodle and to invite any residents to attend): The Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) invites you to attend a **Mayoral Candidates Forum**. This event will inform the public about the ways in which the future

mayor's vision and policies for Somerville will impact the Union Square neighborhood.
All mayoral candidates will be present together in person.

- **When?** July 21, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- **Where?** 8 Tyler Street in Somerville AND on Zoom
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG9P6UZPD87VKGOqweWxp9ue_mBvdaqdExDuFQnd-trcbJjg/viewform

6. Commissioner Onboarding

- Chair created an onboarding draft document, see document
- Register for a table themselves; RSJ has a table and invited HRC and SCW to join, but not their own table
- CC spoke about the financial literacy training that was fully planned then halted in 2024; well received in the past and something we want to continue
- Youth Social Justice Cohort presentation deadline has passed; opportunity to civically engage the youth and create a pipeline of volunteers and learn about their needs
- Chair asked Angie to note the appointment of all new commissioners in the next RSJ newsletter
- Melissa: when does term limit begin? Angie believe it is swearing in date, but will double check and let us know
- Timelines about elections do not apply in an emergency situation like right now

7. Establish Subcommittees and Working Groups

- Chair recommends we move this to a later meeting when we have all appointees sworn in and commissioners can make more informed decisions
- Anyone eager to get started can reach out to chair directly to get started

8. Other Business / Late Items

- No items

9. Adjournment

- Close at 8:20, Alex seconds the motion

Next Full Commission Meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e. CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance, at 617625-6600 x2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov