

## Somerville Commission for Women

SCW Co-Chairs: Katelin & Alex

RSJ Representative: Angie

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Location: [Zoom](#)

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### I. Call to Order

Katelin called a meeting to order at 7:07 PM

### II. Roll Call

Katelin led a roll call for the meeting. Two Commissioners are not present\*. Official attendance records can be found [here](#).

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

Quorum is reached.

### III. SCW Recruitment and Onboarding

- A. One commissioner will be resigning due to life circumstances.
- B. The Commission will move forward with discussing the candidates that Kim interviewed recently.

### IV. Proposal: SCW Retreat

- A. Overwhelming interest in hosting a commission retreat based on the initial survey sent out to commissioners.

Propose: To connect, respectfully disagree, examine movement-building while in an in-person setting as much as possible.

Date: January 2026

Location(s): Auditorium in the central Somerville public library or the Tufts Administration Building.

Notes:

1. Need to clarify whether this retreat will qualify as an open meeting.
2. Considering whether to bring in experts in professional development/team-building, move-ment building, etc.
3. Sample Schedule: 9:00am - 2: with a break for lunch
  - a) Team-Building Activities
  - b) Advocacy Work & Project Management

- c) Data-Driven Outcomes, Priorities, & Action Items
- 4. Katelin will be sending out a “How-To” for feedback.
- 5. Katelin proposes moving forward with the SCW retreat proposal

B. Feedback/Q&As

- 1. Proposed addition to the agenda: break-out groups/meeting time for subcommittees.

C. Approved by commission to move forward.

**V. Domestic Violence Visual Recap**

- A. Mixed emotions and feedback from some of the remarks regarding quality and tone of some speakers.
- B. SCW discussed feedback immediately after with the RSJ team.
- C. Began creation of a community quilt.
- D. Great in terms of execution, process, and support from RSJ.
- E. Turn-out was poor outside of city representatives and community members.
- F. Future considerations to be made about advertising, marketing, etc. Suggestion to begin planning two months earlier.
- G. Upcoming Thursday: Trans Remembrance Evening – Katelin is going to attend and report back; hoping to learn and/or collaborate.

**VI. Subcommittee Group Updates | O.E.C.E. Subcommittee**

Presenter: Ayerim

- 1. Meeting Info: Second Monday of each month at 6:30pm on Zoom.
- 2. Drafted mission statement: The mission of the outreach, education, communication and Events Subcommittee is to advance the goals of the Somerville Commission for Women and strengthen community engagement by developing and implementing equitable outreach, education initiatives, and public events that are response to community needs.
  - a) The mission statement was *approved* by the committee.
- 3. Ideas:
  - a) Door-to-door campaign/collection of menstrual products.
  - b) Attend meetings with the new City Council members.
    - (1) Purpose: Visibility, collaboration, partnership, etc.
    - (2) Contacted council woman
    - (3) Community Tabling: November 30 is the Somerville Women’s Market
    - (4) Update the website, establish social media presence, etc.
- 4. Proposed Committee Heads: Melissa
  - a) The mission statement was *approved* by the committee.

Questions:

- (1) *How can folks attend this subcommittee meeting?* Available online through a link provided by RSJ.

**VII. Subcommittee Group Updates | Advocacy, Policy, and Planning**

Presenter: Bobbi

1. No data to inform our work. Wanting to partner with the City asking for data centered around women. Interested in
2. Somerstat is a sector of the city that sends out – suggestions to explore this.
3. Priority: Most current data. What are some of the key themes?
4. Interest in more regularly collecting this data.
5. Option to look through the SCW Google Drive files.
6. Expressed importance having a mixed-methods approach to
7. Interest in two committees collaborating on a menstrual products drive.
8. Hoping to receive funding from the city to support these goals.
9. Interest and partner
10. Proposing Jen as Committee Head
11. Interest in various menstrual equity initiatives
  - a) Nykia to create a form/spreadsheet to collect information about any contact points that we have with potential partners, community-members, etc.

**VIII. Joining Subcommittees**

- A. Commissioners can join any subcommittee that they are interested in at any time.

**IX. RJS Updates**

A. Angie

1. Tablecloth, chip clips, and pens are available in the RSJ suite.
2. Community Engagement Training – materials are available to review.
  - a) Form created and shared with the chairs (RSJ is using this to track and support events and initiatives.)

**X. Adjournment:** Katelin called the meeting to a close at 7:08PM.