

# Somerville Commission for Women (SCW)

## Committee: Advocacy, Policy, Projects, & Planning (APPP)

Meeting Agenda: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 7:30pm

### Current Members

Alex Barbat

Bobbi Van Gilder, Chair

Jenn Harrington, Chair/February Meeting Moderator

### Guests

Molly Lomenzo

Haakon Brooks, RSJ

### Item 1: City Council Finance Committee's Community Budget Meeting

The Advocacy, Policy, Projects, & Planning (APPP) Committee was pleased to listen and to participate in the Community Budget Meeting. We thank the Finance Committee and those who spoke for their work.

### Item 2: Task Force Recruitment

We discussed best practices, inclusive language, and the structure of a call for task force members. Bobbi had some very good ideas about figuring out the length of a task force so we could be transparent about needs. We would like an online form for recruitment efforts. We talked about how a commissioner needs to Chair or Co-Chair with a community member.

Alex expressed an interest in starting a new task force centered to support the unhoused. In such we shuffled some responsibilities:

- Alex will Chair the new task force. We agreed that commissioners should follow their interests and look forward to hearing more.
- Bobbi will be Chair of both the Universal Childcare Task Force and the Women in Public Leadership Research Initiative.
- Jenn will Chair the Health Equity Task Force: Endometriosis and provide support to other task forces, especially those that Bobbi is chairing since she has two.
- Molly recommended the Resilience Sisterhood Project and will provide outreach to them when we are ready.

## **Item 2: Tracking Legislation**

We discussed the benefits of tracking legislation as well as using AI and Google alerts to lighten the load. However, with multiple task force efforts, we're at capacity. We will leave this potential task for the future when there is a commissioner interested in managing the effort and will do what we can when we can in the meantime..

## **Other Notes**

- Thanks Haakon. We went late. We appreciate your efforts.
- We are looking forward to the pause to be over for new commissioner recruiting. We hope to have more commission, current or new, on our subcommittee so we can get more work done!

## **Next Steps**

- Alex to create a task force title and purpose before the next APPP meeting.
- Jenn to create a task force folder architecture.
- Jenn to draft the call for members for the Endometriosis Task Force; it is currently with the Law Department (thanks Katelin). Once that gets settled, she will share with other commissioners for feedback.