

Somerville Commission for Women
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Aug 21, 2013

Attendees by Commissioners: Nancy, Melissa, Marlena, Heather, Daisy, Keri, Rachelle, Alicia (eight commissioners)

Guests: Cynthia and Nancy

The meeting was held at the Cross Street Center at 165 Broadway at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion of ArtBeat

Lots of good interaction with people via the butcher block paper and its question.

Fundraising ideas

Heather: How about a t-shirt? What would appeal but still connect up to the Women's commission.

Nancy: What about a city-wide contest?

Nancy: There's a standard letter we have to use for fundraising.

Melissa: Are we allowed to solicit donations?

Nancy: We can't ask. But we can put out a receptacle marked "donations."

SCW 25th Anniversary

Nancy: October for a celebration of 25 yrs of the Women's Commission.

Anti-Violence and Upcoming Domestic Violence Vigil

First Wed in October is the Domestic Violence Vigil. Police, firefighters support the event.

It's a moving event. It also cements our relationship with the Police.

Sonja and I have done training with the Police and Fire related to domestic violence.

Prior activities: Decoration of shirts by domestic violence survivors and loved ones. But this requires having counselors on hand.

There's also going to be a "Community Panel" in partnership with the DA's office on domestic violence in the Muslim community.

Keri: Will we try to honor the person Helen Corrigan who sponsored the commission originally?

Nancy: Yes.

Alicia: What about the women who used to be on the commission? Nancy: Maybe the City's archivist has the info.

Alicia: Sonja has photos. Mention of a photo board.

Rachelle & Keri: Woman was murdered by her boyfriend in Waltham. Red Sox's announcer's son was the perpetrator. He was released on his own recognizance; he went back and murdered his girlfriend in front of other people.

Nancy: These terrible incidents happen but if there's not a "famous" name attached to the incident it doesn't grab the headlines

Daisy: A woman was beaten so badly that she was hospitalized but wouldn't press charges.

Nancy: Sonja and I were on a task force related to high-risk behavior by young woman. No follow up in Nancy's hands.

ACTION: Launch bar awareness campaign

Five Hours a Month Participation

Nancy: The five hours: Please bring up the Commission in discussions. As a commissioner you need to keep that in mind with respect to participation as you go about your business.

Nancy: How did we each find out about the Women's Commission? Nancy: Artbeat; Nancy: Website; Alicia through another agency; Rachelle: Through my boyfriend who is on the Human Rights Commission. Marlena: ArtBeat & Sonja

Marlena: It would be nice to have a set of talking points on what the Commission does. I could help write it. We could use it as a reference, or as a little leaflet.

Nancy: Can you commit to the ideas you raise?

Alicia: What about business cards for commissioners? It could list some of the initiatives in addition to our names. It would have the Facebook url.

Keri: I'm a communications director. I can help but I don't want to over-step on Sonja's and Nancy's efforts.

**ACTION: Use of QR code on promotional materials
Set up Twitter account**

SCW Tasks & Planning

Nancy: The Fall through October is quite full, but then have time until March. Let's have January as a working meeting to create the talking points, the TShirt, biz cards.

Marlena: The power of small leaflets relating to bullying, sexual harassment etc listing what to do and where to go.

Rachelle: We have them in magnets.

Nancy: Hair Salons are a place where abused women are still usually allowed to go.

Marlena: Yes and also putting the notices where men go.

Nancy: Getting sponsors for the message. This came up earlier but then was dropped.

Heather: What about an event at Flatbread?

Concerns were raised about effort involved.

Heather: What about a 5K for the Women's Commission?

Nancy: We need a commitment to hours toward the tasks and not suggest things then wait for others to make them happen. Everyone agreed.

Fundraising Subcommittee

Nancy: What about a fund-raising subcommittee?

Heather: Seconded.

Alicia: Have we ever applied to Tufts for funds?

Nancy: We don't provide direct service, only awareness and so don't qualify.

Nancy: Our city grant writers bring in grant possibilities.

Rachelle: We are thinking about money, awareness of the commission. What about Davis Square art installation? What about bras from trees? Raise a question via the act. And then present information.

Marlena: Let's have a concrete initiative first (say on domestic violence) and then do an awareness event. It serves double-duty on awareness on the initiative and awareness of the Commission.

Nancy: We have a lot of ideas -- now we need follow through. For September we should prioritize things. We'll need a quorum though.

ACTION: Creation of a fundraising subcommittee motion approved

Dates for Oct events

Oct 21 for panel discussion on domestic violence in the Muslim community. 3:30pm--5:30pm
Members from the Muslim community, court system.

Nancy the new person: I'm interested in sexual assault in addition to DV.

Cynthia: I work in the healthcare sector. I'll be back.

Motion to Adjourn.

Adjourn: 20:05