

# **Somerville Commission for Women**

## **Regular Meeting**

December 19, 2017

7:00pm

Cross Street Center

165 Broadway

**Present:** Jessica Alter, Co-Chair  
Kristen Strezo, Co-Chair  
Katie Wallace  
Stephanie Goodell  
Maggie Norcross Devin  
Melissa Alfone  
Kaitlyn Dmyterko  
Cristina DeWeese  
Sumayya Essack

**Absent:** Daisy Monsalve  
Kat Rutkin  
Marlena Erdos  
Patricha Paul

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Chris Hosman

**Guests:** Holly Fox  
Sylvia Sota

**Meeting Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Kristen Strezo at 7:00 p.m.

**Previous Minutes:** November meeting minutes approved based on a motion made by Kristen Strezo and seconded by Jessica Alter.

**Event Update (SomverViva):** There were a good number of attendees for SomerViva potluck. Good connections were made. Dady Jones and Pikliz donated food. The difference in the attitudes toward domestic violence between home countries and USA was brought up. Possibility of domestic Violence Vigil being held in multiple languages was discussed. Other topics that came up were access to health care and specifically mental health care. Those with MassHealth were satisfied with services but those with private or no insurance struggle. Explore expanding partnership between SomerViva and RESPOND. Struggles around citizenship papers was brought up. How to do outreach to disseminate correct information in multiple languages, and in some cases for those that struggle with literacy. Increasing outreach to Haitian community was discussed.

**Steering Committee Update:** Reviewed the 5 hour time commitment for commissioners. There must be 2 standing committees and everyone must be on at least 1.

**Listening Session Updates:** Reviewed listening session locations and progress. Reviewed the various populations we are reaching out to and which commissioners would be available for which upcoming sessions.

**Task Force Updates:** Organizational Task Force is assembling a contact list, a calendar of events and partnership list. Organizational Task Force met with Outreach to establish roles. Structure and process falls to

Organizational Task Force while ongoing efforts fall to Outreach Subcommittee.

Financial Literacy Task Force found information regarding Somerville Community Corporation's Financial Literacy Program. Researching if this is something we could support and explore. Community Credit Union works in this area as well. The Task force will research both programs.

**Sub-Committee Updates:**

Policy Subcommittee looking into consent training at the High School. Continued discussion regarding the Advocacy workshop that was brought forward in past meeting .

Education Subcommittee discussed interest in trainings around health issues. Possibly look into having a health fair for Women. This topic came up at SomerViva listening session as well, particularly menopause. Outreach to Yoga Studios, Gyms, etc. for potential sponsorships.

Outreach Subcommittee worked on a mission statement. Discussed outreach and recruitment. Discussed ride sharing companies and their effect on women's safety. Increasing presence at community meetings could help with outreach to other groups. 2018 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SCW. This help to inform a future outreach opportunity.

**Fundraising Brainstorming Session:** Reviewed current fundraising opportunities and future initiatives.

**Adjourned:**

Based on a motion made by Jessica Alter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00. Seconded by Melissa Alfone.