

Somerville Commission for Women

Regular Meeting

October 17, 2017

6:00pm

Cross Street Center

165 Broadway

Present: Jessica Alter, Co-Chair
Kristen Strezo, Co-Chair
Melissa Alfone
Katie Wallace
Kaitlyn Dmyterko
Stephanie Goodell (Left 8:52)
Kat Rutkin
Cristina Deweese
Marlena Erdos (Arrived 7:24)

Absent: Daisy Monsalve

Staff Members in Attendance: Chris Hosman

Guests: Holly Fox
Patricia Paul
Maggie Norcross Devin

Meeting Called to Order: On a motion made by Kristen Strezo, the meeting was called to order at 6:10pm. It was seconded by Jessica Alter

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Jessica Alter, the August 15, 2017 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Melissa Alfone. Stephanie Goodell abstained.

November Meeting Date: Discussion regarding changing the date of the November meeting due to the holiday took place. A motion was made by Kristen Strezo, to change the meeting date to November 28th. The motion was seconded by Cristina DeWeese and approved.

(Marlena Erdos Arrives)

Steering Committee Update: Sub-Committee meetings must take place monthly in person. They must have a clear agenda and minutes should be posted to the google drive within 2 days.

Task Forces are intended to gather information and make recommendations. Task forces will be given specific tasks at the meeting at which they are created. Event Task Forces should be created three months prior to the targeted event date.

Discussion of communication practices. All communication between commissioners must take place in accordance with open meeting laws.

Discussion of bylaws stating there should be 5 women of color on the commission. Stephanie Goodell offered to withdraw from the commission in the event that a woman of color is interested in joining the commission and a seat is not open.

Event Updates:

Salary Negotiation Workshop was well attended, 42 signed up and at least 27 attended. The population was diverse and the food was good. There was interest among participants in doing it again. People found it to be valuable. There were some issues with tech, next time make sure we have extension cords. Air conditioning system is very loud. Have a sign at events regarding photography. Plan on hosting a second workshop in March in honor of Women's History Month. AAUW schedules 2 months out. Re-visit at November meeting.

Domestic Violence Vigil was a success, the crowd increased as the night went on. There were fewer attendees this year. Next year we need to better define engagement purpose. Moving forward we are there to raise awareness, share information and encourage vigil attendance. Everyone's engagement level is different. Vigil started 10 minutes early. Next time be more precise with start time. Ribbons are a better engagement tool than flyers. Many attendees were interested in the Clothesline Project. Perhaps have information regarding the project at the same eye level as the display. We have a performer slated for next year who is a survivor.

Task Force Updates:

Bystander Training Task Force. There were 10 participants signed up and there have been an additional 10. Email and flyers have gone out. Community Credit Union is promoting the training as well. Training can accommodate 30, we have allowed for 39 registrants to take into account no-shows. Registrants will receive a reminder email encouraging attendance. Email will be sent to Chris Hosman prior to being sent out.

Advocacy 101 Training Task Force. The focus of the training will be guidance on advocating for what you are passionate about. The event is slated for Spring. A motion was made by Jessica Alter to put the Task force on hold. The motion was seconded by Melissa Alfone and approved.

Organization Task Force The task force has put an events calendar together. All events should be sent to the Organization Task Force. Event checklist will also be reviewed.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Outreach Sub-committee. Google document of potential partnerships which includes contact information, etc. has been created. The list is intended to document who we are, or should be, working with. This can be used for marketing, event amplification, programming, collaboration, etc. Discussion of purpose of Outreach Sub-Committee and Organization Task force took place. SCW logo has been re-designed by Kaitlyn Dmyterko. Examples were distributed. Feedback is to be sent to Kaitlyn via email and vote will take place at the November meeting.

Policy Sub-Committee did not meet.

Education Sub-Committee would like to establish a task force for financial literacy. Holly Fox, Kat Rutkin and Cristina DeWeese are interested in participating. Financial Literacy Task Force was created on a motion made by Kristen Strezo. Motion was seconded by Jessica Alter and approved. The task force has been tasked with researching financial literacy

training options and reporting back at the next meeting.

External Meetings Updates: The steering committee met with Mayor Curtatone and Skye Stewart, Chief of Staff. The discussion included childcare and the affordability of childcare.

Kristen Strezo, Cristina DeWeese and Christopher Hosman met with SomerViva staff to discuss reaching out to diverse populations. The plan is to host a “potluck” of some kind. Christopher will get potential dates.

Upcoming Bill Senate, No. S386 House, No. H2898: Based on a motion made by Kristen Strezo the Somerville Commission for Women will officially support the bill. Kaitlyn Dmyterko seconded and the motion was approved. Based on a motion made by Katie Wallace, the commission will send a letter endorsing the bill. Jessica seconded and the motion was approved. Draft letter will be sent to Chris by Friday.

SCW Monthly Meeting location: Discussion of the pros and cons of changing the meeting location from Public Safety Building to Cross Street Center. Discussion of whether or not the change will result in a direct increase in diversity amongst attendees took place. Based on a motion made by Jessica Alter the meeting will be moved to the Cross Street Center. Katie Wallace seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Marlena Erdos and Stephanie Goodell abstained.

2018 data gathering and listening sessions: Discussion took place about replacing the January Subcommittee meetings with listening sessions throughout the community. Possibly have Policy and Outreach Subcommittees conduct sessions. Revisit in November meeting.

Fundraising: Discussion took place about the importance of fund raising. Assembly row has an annual gift wrapping fundraiser. Based on a motion made by Jessica Alter the SCW will participate. Melissa Alfone seconded.

(Stephanie Goodell Leaves)

Late agenda items: Information shared regarding Respond’s Open House on October 19th, The Joint Commission on Public Health and the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators Domestic Violence as a Public Health Issue event on October 30th, and the MAPS Photography Exhibit opening October 20th.

Adjourned: Based on a motion made by Jessica Alter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03. Seconded by Melissa Alfone.