PRESENT: Adele Alfano, Denise Doyle, Amirah Hassan, Catherine Hughes, Myra James, Patti McNaney, Shirley Molinaro, Michelle Poirier, Uzma Qureshi, Denise Spoelstra, Basharat Tayyab, Baldeep Virk

REGRETS: Liliana Cardona, Heather Judson, Catherine Pead, Councillor Brenda Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Bev Neill, City of Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
Committee members were welcomed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. DELEGATION

3.1 Jennie Vengris and Molly Elliott, Community Services Department regarding Housing & Homelessness Action Plan & Community Engagement Strategy
The Committee welcomed Jennie Vengris and Molly Elliott from the Community Services Department - Social Housing and Homelessness Division, who attended to seek the committee’s input on the community engagement portion of the Housing & Homelessness Action Plan.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
(M. James/P. McNaney)
That the minutes from the June 23, 2011 meeting of the Status of Women Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION
6.1 DRAFT Guidelines for Absenteeism
At the June meeting of the committee, Uzma volunteered to draft some guidelines for attendance/absenteeism. She advised that she did put a draft together, however, being new to the committee, she was not sure of the challenges and what lead to lack of quorum. She requested feedback from members on what should be done to redress the issue. Discussion followed and points made included:
- for committee to be effective must have quorum
- if you are not attending then it is reasonable to remove the member from the committee
- Bev advised that the Clerks Office is developing a policy for absenteeism
- develop a standard email to send to members who have missed 3 consecutive meetings

Uzma will take these points into consideration and develop a draft for the October meeting.

6.2 Discussion re SWC Proposed Workplan
Discussion took place regarding the workplan. Patti provided some background information regarding the development of the plan for the benefit of the new members. It was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to prioritize the workplan. Amirah will send an email to the members who volunteered for this subcommittee to determine a date and time for an extra meeting to discuss this.

It was suggested that the next meeting be devoted to the work plan and subcommittees formed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Denise Doyle advised that the Zonta Club wants to partner with the Status of Women Committee for the Persons’ Day Breakfast to be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011. The Zonta Club has requested $500.00. Discussion followed. Uzma expressed the opinion that the committees needs to support as many events as possible to practice our mandate and made the committee more visible. Patti questioned how the committee could partner other than just making financial contributions. Bev cautioned that the committee had to be careful in partnership vs. sponsorship and emphasized that we need to define partnership. It was suggested that the committee buy a table, take the banner and have material available for distribution.

(D.Doyle/M.Poirier)
That the Status of Women Committee partner with the Zonta Clubs of Hamilton and the YWCA for the Persons Day Breakfast on Thursday, October 20, 2011 with a contribution of $500.00. CARRIED
Discussion followed on attendance at the Persons Day Breakfast, getting material for the table to the event and who would be at the table. Amirah will do a presentation, Uzma will pick up material from Bev Neill and Basharat will be at the table to talk about the committee and distribute material. Members interested in attending will email Carolyn Bish who will arrange to purchase the tickets to the event.

7.2 Resignation
The committee members were advised that Debbie Sanche had submitted her resignation from the committee.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION SHARING
Sisters in Spirit – 6th Annual Vigil to honour missing & murdered aboriginal women in Canada – October 4, 2011 10:00 am to 12:00 pm 21 Rosedene Avenue.

9. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the committee adjourned.