Amended
MINUTES: Status of Women Committee
Thursday, January 31, 2013 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 193, Hamilton City Hall

PRESENT: Denise Doyle, Linda Gill, Jeannie Howe, Catherine Hughes,
Myra James, Nashwa Khan, Patti McNaney, Michelle Poirier

REGRETS: Amirah Hassan, Heather Judson, Katherine Kalinowski, Uzma
Qureshi, Denise Spoelstra, Basharat Tayyab, Baldeep Virk

ALSO PRESENT: Maxine Carter, City of Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
   All were welcomed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
   None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   The following additions were made to the agenda under Item 7 – New
   Business:
   7.1 Casino in Hamilton
   7.2 International Women’s Day Events

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   A correction was made to Item 7.5: Update – Student Help with Survey of
   the September 27, 2012 minutes. Patti McNaNey was not able to get
   students from McMaster to assist.

   (M. James/C. Hughes)
   That the minutes of September 27, 2012 meeting of the Hamilton Status
   of Women Committee be approved, as amended. CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION
6.1 Muslim Women Council of Hamilton
Discussion regarding the Muslim Women Council of Hamilton’s Celebration of Holidays Event. Basharat Tayyab was not in attendance and hence committee will provide her feedback at a future meeting.

6.2 Budget Schedule
Committee discussed the development of a Gender Equity Lens for the City of Hamilton staff and Council that will assist with bringing a gender perspective when preparing the annual budget. Denise Doyle provided an update of her meeting with Katherine Kalinowski regarding how the committee should move forward with this issue. The plan is to host a workshop on gender equity and invite Councillors and Senior Managers from the City to participate. The Committee discussed possible topic areas that should be included in the workshop for Councillors. A McMaster student has volunteered to help with the research. Denise and Katherine will continue to work on this initiative.

6.3 Gender Equity Lens – What to Include
The committee requested an update regarding their request to Human Resources, City of Hamilton for data resulting from the Workforce Census on the gender breakdown in various categories (pay rate, management levels, job categories, and in which departments and divisions). M. Carter noted that the data is close to being completed and committee could expect a draft at their next meeting.

D. Doyle shared a research report on gender equity, developed in Australia entitled, “Why Gender Matters”. Felicia, the McMaster student who is volunteering, will write to ask the Australian government for permission to use their document. This document highlights research on Gender Analysis, and the committee would like to develop a similar working document for Hamilton.

Decisions affect everyone differently – men, women & children. The use of a gender lens is very important for decision making & understanding the impact on various population groups.

The Status of Women Committee plan to launch the document, “Why Gender Matters”, on March 7, 2013, in collaboration with the Women’s Housing Collaborative. D. Doyle will send more details regarding the event to the committee members. She and Katherine thought that they could start by developing a general education session for Councillors and the general public. This could be a half day event / workshop. Committee members are being asked to help plan the event. D. Doyle provided the committee with an estimate of $2,500 to cover the cost of the workshop. The results of the Status of Women community survey will also be presented at the event on March 7th.
The “Why Gender Matters” document from Australia includes Gender Equity in Local Government Partnership; Victorian Councils; Regional Women’s Health Services; ten ways that local government can advance gender equity. It covers a lot of areas that the committee feels will be relevant to Hamilton.

D. Doyle will try to organize a meeting with the Status of Women Committee and the Women’s Housing Collaborative to discuss what the collaboration would look like regarding the event.

Linda Gill suggested that the committee sponsor the film “Status Quo” in partnership with another organization and the film should be shown at the March 7, 2013 event.

(J. Howe/P. McNaney)
That the Status of Women Committee partner with other women’s organizations for the planning and execution of the conference, “Why Gender Matters” to be held on March 7, 2013. CARRIED

(M. James/J. Howe)
That the Status of Women Committee approve $2,500 to cover the cost of the planning and execution of the “Why Gender Matters” event on March 7, 2013. CARRIED

6.4 Discussion – Promotional Material
Factor[e] has nearly finished all promotional material. Maxine Carter will contact Tyler Cowie, Factor[e] to get the final design files. The committee will not print presentation folders at this time due to the high cost. Maxine Carter will look into the cost of plain red presentation folders that can be used to keep the Status of Women promotional and resource material that will be given out at the March 7, 2013 event.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Casino in Hamilton
Joey Coleman, a Hamilton journalist, hosts LiveStream and shows all City Council meetings. He is also on Facebook. Women are asked to tune in on February 6th to hear the issues regarding a casino in Hamilton.

7.2 International Women’s Day Events
M. Carter will coordinate the events that are sent to her my email. D. Doyle will send all information to her regarding International Women’s Day Events so that she can forward on to members.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION SHARING
8.1 **One Billion Rising** on February 14, 2013. This event will be at City Hall. The theme is women standing up, dancing and raising voices against violence against women.

8.2 **Women of Distinction** nominations close on February 14, 2013. Please encourage your contacts to submit a nomination.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, February 28, 2013
5:30 p.m. – Room 193, City Hall