MINUTES: Status of Women Committee
Thursday, June 23, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 222, Hamilton City Hall

PRESENT: Adele Alfano, Denise Doyle, Amirah Hassan, Catherine Hughes,
Heather Judson, Patti McNaney, Shirley Molinaro, Denise
Spoelstra, Basharat Tayyab

REGRETS: Myra James, Catherine Pead, Michelle Poirier, Debbie Sanche,
Baldeep Virk

ALSO PRESENT: Bev Neill, City of Hamilton
Councillor Brenda Johnson
Uzma Qureshi

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
Committee members were welcomed. Uzma Qureshi was introduced to the
Committee and expressed interest in becoming a member.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(C. Hughes/P. McNaney)
That the minutes from the May 26, 2011 meeting of the Status of Women
Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

5.1 Code of Conduct
Discussion took place on the code of conduct at meetings including being
respectful, the ability to share ideas and that all contributions are valued.

(H. Judson/S. Molinaro)
That the members of the Status of Women Committee accept the meeting
etiquette as presented. CARRIED.
5.2 Committee Budget
A copy of the 2010 Status of Women Committee budget was distributed and Denise Doyle reviewed the items for the new members. Following discussion, it was agreed that the committee needs to define parameters of support when using budget dollars in partnering with other organizations for events. Bev Neill explained how the reserve budget works and advised that only Council has the authority to provide grants or sponsorships.

5.3 Workplan
Patti McNaney took the lead on the discussion regarding the Workplan Development of the committee. Priorities were established. Committee members broke into 3 group to discuss the how, why and what of the different work areas. A new work plan will be developed using the established priorities at this meeting and will be implemented in September 2011.

5.4 Summer Meetings
The Status of Women Committee will not meet during the months of July and August 2011.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Quorum
In order to ensure that the committee has quorum for its meetings, it was suggested that members should notify staff in advance on whether or not they will attend that month’s meeting.

Discussion around the parameters for absences and leaves of absence took place. Uzma volunteered to draft some guidelines for absenteeism.

6.2 Membership
The Status of Women Committee currently has 14 members. The mandate states that the committee can have a maximum of 15 members.

(B. Tayyab / D. Spoelstra)
That the Status of Women Committee accept Uzma as a member of the Status of Women Committee upon approval by City Council.

CARRIED.

Uzma will submit an application form to the City Clerks Office to process for approval by Council.

6.3 Women’s Civic Participation Kit
A general discussion regarding potential changes in the handbook took place with Councillor Brenda Johnson offering suggestions on the methods on how to approach city councillors, establishing a working relationship with council
members and presentations to committees, etc. Staff will incorporate the suggestions into the handbook to be reviewed by the Committee at a later date.

6.4 Announcements & Information Sharing will be added as a regular item on future agendas of the Status of Women Committee.

7. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the committee adjourned.