

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

September 10, 2014

Commission Meeting - Minutes

Upcoming Events

Oct 1 – Domestic Violence Vigil on Steps of City Hall, 6pm

Oct 1 – Monthly CCSW Meeting, 6:30pm

Oct 27 – Screening of *The Supreme Price*, Cambridge Main Library, Time TBD (6:30 or 7pm)

Nov 5 – Monthly CCSW Meeting, 6:30pm

Dec 3 - Monthly CCSW Meeting, 6:30pm

Dec 4 – Women&Words, Women and Climate Change, City Hall Annex, 7pm

March 5 - Women&Words, Hollaback! Stopping Street Harassment, City Hall Annex, 7pm

In attendance: Johanne Meleance, Laura Cava Northrop, Golnaz Tabatabai, Addie Schwarz, Marjorie Saunders, Phyllis Bretholtz, Pauline Carter-Wells, Srin Chakravorty

Staff: Kimberly, Emily

Program updates

We reviewed the dates for upcoming programs/events the CCSW is sponsoring such as the film screening of *The Supreme Price* and discussion with the film's producer at the main library branch in October.

GBV Prevention Initiative

We discussed the details for the upcoming annual DVAM vigil on the steps of City Hall on October 1st. Kimberly updated the commission on the city's new hire, Elizabeth Speakman, as the Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative's new coordinator who will be starting on October 6th. Liz comes most recently from Mass General and is highly qualified to be taking on this newly created position. We discussed at length the benefits of this new position and all were reminded that the position is the result of the four year effort, begun by then-city councilor Marjorie Decker and others, to investigate the city's capacity to address domestic violence. In response to the numerous summits and campaigns held during the past four years, city leadership created this coordinator position as an important first step to address the DV prevention needs in our community. Liz will work in close collaboration with other city departments, agencies, and citizens. All are excited and welcome Liz in her new position. It was suggested that Liz be invited to come speak with the commission during one of our regularly scheduled meetings in the near future.

Women and Words!

Kimberly shared the upcoming topics for W&W! and a lively discussion ensued. Some commissioners unfamiliar with Hollaback! Boston (stopping street harassment) were curious to learn more about it as well as familiarize themselves with the many websites, twitter and Facebook feeds that all collect women's stories about the street harassment they experience. We also briefly discussed Mother's Out Front, a grass roots organization of women committed to climate change issues, who will be our December W&W! speakers.