

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

January 7, 2015

Commission Meeting - Minutes

Upcoming Events

Feb 4 - Monthly CCSW Meeting, 6:30pm (6pm dinner)

March 4 - Monthly CCSW Meeting, 6:30pm (6pm dinner)

March 5 - Women&Words, *Street Harassment 101*, City Hall Annex, 7pm

March 6 – Boston Area International Women’s Day Breakfast, Simmons College, 7:30am

March 21 – WAM! Boston Women’s Film Festival, Brattle Theater

March 24 – CWHP IWD Celebration, Bishnu Pariyar, EDWON, Cambridge Main Library, 6:30pm

April 28 - “The Talk” Realistic Strategies for Promoting the Sexual Safety of Young Children, Cambridge Main Library, 6:30pm

In attendance: Pauline, Lisa, Addie, Golnaz, Kailah, Laura, Marjorie, Pamela, Srin, Phyllis, Susan

Absent: Johanne, Iftexhar

Minutes

Welcome to new members

Women&Words! - Mothers Out Front

Mothers Out Front and the Women’s Commission have been in contact since the event in December. MOF members are meeting with Councilor Dennis Carlone and Councilor Denise Simmons and their aides to discuss the possibility of having the city switch from fossil fuels to clean energy. The group is hoping that there may be some excitement around this switch, especially since Cambridge’s Net Zero Task Force will be releasing its report later this month.

Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative

The Commission suggested that it would be great if the new Coordinator for the Initiative could visit one of our monthly meetings, introduce herself, and share her vision for the Initiative and the work that is going on. We will invite her for the spring.

G.O.L.D. Initiative

Councilor Denise Simmons’ GOLD (Girls Only Leadership Development) group has been meeting monthly since October. Eighteen girls meet to cover topics such as social media safety, CRLS program offerings, and scholarship opportunities. Speakers are brought in and then the girls have a chance to reflect on the topic in small groups and in journals. Emily and Kimberly are serving as program mentors to the girls, facilitating small group discussion. If anyone is interested in being a mentor in this program for the 2015-2016 year, let Emily know.

Anti Sexual Harassment Poster Campaign

Some recent incidents in the City have spurred Cambridge’s Personnel Department to work with the Commission to develop an anti-sexual harassment poster project. Kimberly is working

with them to develop a comprehensive poster campaign, to display throughout the city in all city buildings, aimed bringing awareness to and thereby preventing sexual harassment among the city's employees.

Boston Area International Women's Day Breakfast

This year marks the 18th year for this popular breakfast celebration held at Simmons College. Emily and Kimberly have begun attending the planning meetings in earnest and the work is underway. When asked to contribute possible topics for the theme of this year's breakfast, commissioners suggested:

- Investing in the Next Generation: Young Women
- The Immigrant Women Experience in the United States
- Trafficking
- Empowering Women through the Legal System
- Opportunities for Higher Education around the World
- Financial Security

Cambridge Women's Heritage Project Event

The CWHP is planning their annual International Women's Day event. The idea this year is to feature Bishnu Pariyar, Founder of Empower Dalit Women of Nepal (EDWON). A short documentary was made about her and her organization. The link is:

<http://jointhelights.org/work/untouchable/>

Stories from On The Rise: Bringing production to Cambridge

The Women's Commission is beginning to explore the idea of bringing a production of *Stories from On The Rise* to Cambridge. The show, featuring stories from homeless and formerly homeless women in Cambridge and Boston, played at the Boston Playwrights' Theater in December. Phyllis and Marjorie are spearheading this exploration. If you are interested in helping out, please contact them.