

Cambridge Commission on the Status of Women

February 8, 2017

Commission Meeting

Upcoming Events

February 20, *Women in Cambridge: Valentine's Day*, heating up with **Rumba Y Timbal**
6pm The Rising, Inman Square

February 17, Roxanne Gay, *Difficult Women*
7pm, Cambridge Public Library
There are no tickets, and seating is first come, first served. Doors will open at 6:30

March 2, Women&Words, *From March to Action*
7pm 344 Broadway, Cambridge

March 8, International Women's Day Breakfast: ***Responding to Changing Policies: Engaging Women's Voices***
8am, Simmons College

March 8, **Women's Strike, A Day Without A Woman**. In support of women who may not be able to strike, local business women and others will gather on the steps of City Hall from 2:45 to 3pm to show support and solidarity with the Women's Strike.

March 21, *Women in Cambridge: Get to Know Central Square Theater's* all female leadership team!
Event with Deb Wise, Lee Mikeska Gardner, Catherine Carr-Kelly
6pm Central Square Theater

Minutes

Present: Srin, Pauline, Pamela, Emily Neill, Marjorie, Therecia, Golnaz, Laura, Addie

Citizens Civic Unity Committee

Therecia attended the Citizens Civic Unity Committee meeting in January on behalf of the Women's Commission. The evening began with introductions of committees and missions and a discussion of how all of the committees might complement each other's work and collaborate on events. It was decided that an email group would be created and that's how everyone would be notified of the different events in the city.

Questions that were considered: How do we build advocacy groups? How do we build community? What's happening? How do we help and support each other? General conclusions were that the city needs to build better awareness among and inclusion of the community.

CRLS Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Update

Phyllis reconnected with the CRLS student who was part of the original Gender Theory Class that ultimately was the impetus behind the walkout in the spring of 2016. The student relayed to Phyllis how the movement began when students realized their individual experiences were the experiences of many. An understanding that the collective was impacted; that it was not just an individual's problem but a problem of the culture at CRLS that allowed sexual

harassment--ranging from cat calling to assault--to exist at the high school. Club One organized the walk out and posters with actual quotes from the experiences people shared anonymously were displayed.

CCSW Commissioner Recommendations:

- Address the list of 13 concrete requests submitted by students in spring 2016.
- Discuss sexual harassment in freshman health class, but preferably before.
- View this as a systemic issue and not just a CRLS issue.
- Continue with the workshops for male teachers that began in the fall of 2016
- Get Club One, Gender Theory Students, STARS, Sisters on the Runway and others to work *together*
- Introduce prevention and consent efforts across the spectrum, from pre-school to college.

Women and Words – March

Commissioners recommended that we focus on next steps after the women's march in January. What's next? What does the political landscape look like? We will begin brainstorming speakers this week.