

Subject: Status of Women Advisory Committee – Minutes and Outcomes of Meeting
14th May 2014

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File No:	COR2009/1352	
Document Ref:	D15/49139	
Venue:	Room 1, Level 5, Civic Centre	
Date:	Thursday 14 th May 2015	
Time:	Started at: 6.00pm	Closed at: 8.15pm
Chair:	Councillor Denise Pendleton	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith	
Staff Convenor:	Jonathan Nanlohy	
Circulation:		

Committee Role:**The primary role of the Status of Women Advisory Committee is to:**

- Provide advice to Council on improving the ways in which women in the City of Ryde are able to participate and engage actively in all aspects of community and civic life.

Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Councillor D Pendleton	Chairperson	City of Ryde
	x	Councillor G Simon	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Councillor Jane Stott	Delegate	City of Ryde
x		Ms Margarita Grunberg	Community Representative	
x		Ms Rose Torossian	Community Representative	
x		Ms Marg Somerville	Community Representative	
x		Agnes Shim	Community Representative	
		Ms Victoria Brookman	Community Representative	
		Ms Nora Alexanian	Community Representative	
		Ivy Pang	Community Representative	
		Ms Simone Checchia	Community Representative	
x		Ms Julie Lowes	Guest	
x		Therese Mackenzie	Guest	
x		Dawn Nettheim	Guest	
x		Robyn Gaspari	Guest	
x		Jynene Helland	Guest	
x		Cheryl Kistan	Guest	
X		Beth Kosnik	Guest	
X		Penny Pedersen	Guest	
x		Suzanne Marks	Guest	
x		Angelika Hollo	Guest	
x		Belinda Mao	Guest	
	X	Edna Wilde	Guest	
x		Jonathan Nanlohy	Social Policy and Planning Coordinator	City of Ryde
x		Gunjan Tripathi	Acting SUM – Community and Culture	City of Ryde

Additional Attendees

Name	Position Title	Organisation
Linda Smith	EA to the Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>1. Introductions and Apologies:</p> <p>Each member present introduced themselves to the group.</p>	<p>Noted as above</p>	
<p>2. International Women’s Day – Make it Happen – overview and recap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This event was held on 11th March 2015 at Eden Gardens. - Attendance of 50 was expected – 85 attended - Attendees were surveyed and 30 responses were received. - All responses were positive with regard to the event and said it had met their expectations. - 61% of responders were interested in the Status of Women Advisory Committee - Topics which were recommended in the survey results for future exploration by this committee were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Careers for women (20%) o Property and older women (23%) o Family violence (34%) o Poverty and older women (38%) o Children and work/life balance (26%) o Food security (42%) o Civic representation (23%) o None of the above (11%) <p>The group then gave consideration to each of the topics listed above to determine which should be the focus of further consideration by this group.</p> <p>The results of this discussion are appended to these minutes.</p> <p>As a result it was decided that the following issues will be discussed at the next three meetings of this group.</p> <p>August – Family Violence November – Work Life Balance March 2016 – Civic Life</p>	<p>It was considered that as a planning meeting, this session had worked well.</p> <p>Decisions made re future meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite a guest speaker - Talk about the issues - What do they mean in general - What do they mean for Ryde - Formulate advice which can be given to planners and decision makers - There is a need to look locally at each issue - Examine the initiatives already underway - Invite service providers to address this group - Provide locally based information - Following discussions then make recommendations - Need to find practical actions that can be taken at a Council level - 	

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<p>3. Other Business – Upcoming Events</p> <p><u>Hungry For Art</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This exhibition is being held from 7th May to 13th June with exhibitions in various locations. - Members are encouraged to attend an event is possible as there is an extensive art trail through the City of Ryde. <p><u>Carers health and Wellbeing Expo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This event is being held on Saturday 16th May at the Epping Club – Rawson Street Epping <p><u>Women’s Art Prize and Exhibition Launch</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This event will be launched at the See Street Gallery on 28th May 2015. - All are invited to attend - An inclusive array of art has been entered this year. <p><u>Refugee Week 2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will be launched at West Ryde Community Hall on 17th June. - All are welcome to attend <p><u>Provision of Playing Field – North West Sydney Koalas Soccer Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Penny Pederson raised the difficulty the above elite team has experienced in gaining access to a COR sporting field which is suitable for their training purposes. - It was explained that the allocation of fields is a complicated process. - Cirs Pendleton and Stott to make further enquiries. <p><u>Council Clean up service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The change to the service to a “booking” service was discussed. - The need to advise people of free sites where they can donate items was mentioned. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Cirs Pendleton and Stott to make further enquiries</p> <p>Media and Waste teams to be asked to provide greater advice re free services available.</p>	

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Details	Action	Responsibility and Date
<p>Confirmation of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 30 July Civic Centre, Level 5, Room 1 6.30pm-8.00pm</p>		

Outcomes of meeting.

Each of the survey topics were expanded by those present at the meeting.

The following chart shows the original topic, the areas it was expanded to cover and number of committee members and guests on the night who wished it to be a major focus of this group.

Topic	Additional subject matter	Votes by committee
Careers for women	Young women, old women, need to work longer but fewer jobs as you get older	3
Property and older women	Food security, widows, mature people, downsizing	2
Family violence	Domestic, where does it happen, impact on children, assistance with children's behaviour, children as carers, multicultural issues, refuges and their use, where to go for help	8
Poverty and older women	Mortgage stress, food prices, public and social housing	3
Children and work life balance	Carers of disabled and children, elderly	2
Food security		2
Civic representation		4
None of the above	Social isolation, stress, depression	3

The below shows the topic areas and comments made

Family Violence

Work/Life Balance

- This topic includes childcare, parental leave, housing costs, the need to undertake more than one paid job
- It is difficult to see what Council can do with regard to the above issues
- Council does have input into State and Federal Planning documents and this might be where Council can be active
- Council also provides before and after school care
- Flexibility of childcare is needed for shift workers
- An informal network may be able to be established in Ryde to help with childcare
- People often know the type of support they need but it isn't available/affordable
- The Rotoract project at Macquarie University was mentioned which provides after school care
- Look at the issue from the point of view of Grandparents
- Grandparents are asked to do a lot for children and often suffer social isolation as a result
- Look at issues faced by people caring for people who are disabled
- There are no social groups listed on Council's website to cater for people caring for the disabled.
- A survey of childcare options in Ryde could be undertaken
- What are the gaps in the services currently provided

- Approximately 120 children are on the waiting list for childcare in Eastwood.
- Council is trying to establish models for before and after school care that differ from those currently on offer
- Children could be transported to those places where they can be assisted.
- Could invite someone to the meeting to speak about their concerns/perspective of looking after a disabled child
- Have a grandparent address the group re the difficulties they face
- A few case studies may provide a better understanding of the needs in the community
- May assist to identify the gaps and determine what Council can do, what Ryde Business Forum can do by way of establishing new businesses
- Women who work long hours often don't have an effective support system
- Council could hold an open forum and invite women to attend
- Internet groups exist to support women
- A typical working mother could be invited to attend the forum and speak about the issues she faces
- Need 3 or 4 people to share their experiences and state "I have these needs"
- Then this committee could look at those comments and say this is what I have heard, this is what Council can do.
- Need to determine what is work, life balance
- Could look at figures from around the world to see what is acceptable
- Work, life, balance is more than just childcare
- Time management is an important component
- Perhaps have a speaker address this issue
- Look at the possibility of working from home, using mobile devices

Civic Life

- Women usually take the central role in the family
- It is difficult to spend time away from families
- Parliament House has a preschool to assist with this issue
- Employment in civic life is often viewed as a boys club and it is difficult for women to break through
- Civic responsibility is important and women should be able to participate
- Gradually, more professional women will begin to look to move into politics
- It is important to have a balance in representation as women think differently
- Women tend to have longer term views than men
- It was noted that the Labor Party has a quota system to try to increase the number of females in politics
- The Liberal Party works on a merit system
- It was noted that Company Boards where women are members do statistically better than Boards with only men.
- One reason could be that women tend to be risk averse but innovative. They also undertake moderating behaviour
- Men are not risk averse and don't tend to cooperate to seek middle ground
- Could undertake a study of women in business
- Look at the benefits of having women in civic life
- What are the obstacles to having women undertake a role in civic life
- Ryde Youth Council was highlighted as a means by which Council encourages leadership participation by women and youth
- The Youth Council encourages leadership development, undertakes mock Council meetings, develops agendas,
- Council is also engaged with mentoring women and youth through its involvement with Max Potential program run through local clubs
- Perhaps someone from the Max Potential program or Youth Council could address this committee
- Need to explore the benefits and obstacles faced by young people especially females
- Could also have speakers from Community/civic groups
- The Centre of Excellence in local government could also be asked to address the group
- Need to undertake research as to the benefits to organisations of employing women in senior roles
- Macquarie University should have someone who could provide more information,
- This group should listen to what is possible and then provide this as advice to Council
- Gail Connolly could be asked to address the group.

This meeting should be held in the evening and child care should be provided

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