

## **SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

### REGULAR MEETING Minutes

**Wednesday, April 20, 2011**

**7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

50 Evergreen Avenue

Somerville, MA

617-625-6600 (x2400)

### **Attendees**

Nancy Bacci, SCW Co-Chair

Marie-Annette Bernard, Commissioner

Alicia Byrd, Commissioner

Michelle Albert, Commissioner

Chien-Chi Huang, Commissioner

Sonja Darai, Director, Somerville Commissions

Wyckoff Nissenbaum, Attorney

### **Decisions**

1. Change to **new SCW logo**
2. The **SCW will not withdraw its endorsement** of the 2011 March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day at Simmons College. Commissioners will follow the ongoing issue specific to the Open Letter received by the advocates but also for the larger context of social justice and women in the prison system.
3. Next monthly meeting of the commission (May 18, 7-9pm) will have an hour dedicated to a guest speaker and discussion on **cancer resources awareness** that the commission will publicize to encourage large public participation and also request the City to videotape for further public sharing
4. There will be a SCW table at **Family Fun Day** on June 25 at Trum Field with face painting and a piggy bank art project for kids to encourage savings (with savings books from local banks and encourage kids to come to our table at ArtBeat for celebratory stickers for super savers)
5. There will continued research and inquiry in preparations for a **quilt project** sponsored by the SCW.

## **Director's Report**

Please refer to the monthly director's report from the Somerville Commissions. The updates on specific projects are:

Cell Phone Drive: There has been very low success in this year's drive so far. Next Steps are to promote through the Communications Department again and increase outreach in the community through 4x6 handouts at events.

## **Policy and Action Updates**

Paid Sick Days: The coalition is intensifying its efforts this year to find success with passing the Paid Sick Days legislation sponsored by Sen. Jehlen and Rep. Kahn. A recent article in the Salem News keeps the issue in the public's eye both positive and negative. There is also an initiative in San Francisco that has fact sheets and information on pros and cons of employees and businesses with paid sick days.

Potential actions on this legislation that the commissioners might use:

- Meeting together and distributing paid sick days info sheets at a major T stop
- Calling legislators, businesses and potential allies to inform about paid sick days benefits for businesses, employees and the community
- Writing blogs and letters to the editors about information about paid sick days

## **Old Business, Reminders and Updates**

April 29 Somerville Youth LGBT Fundraiser: There will be a fundraiser for Somerville LGBT youth dating violence prevention programming through the purchase of tickets for the play 'The Painter,' being shown Friday April 29th at 8:00 pm at the Unity Church 6 William Street on the corner of College Ave (right down the street from Davis Sq.). The play is about race relations through the eyes of two men and the play-write, John Shea, has generously agreed to walk away with only \$100 of night's profit with the rest going to LGBT youth dating violence prevention work in Somerville. For tickets and more information, people may go to [www.playsbyshea.com](http://www.playsbyshea.com)

SCW Women's History Month Reception: The commission's annual reception honoring Mary Louise Daly and the Somerville Police Department's Family Services Unit was very successful with many in attendance including former and current elected officials, police chief, and community.

Planned Parenthood Rally: Several commissioners attended the rally including Michelle, Alicia, and Alicia's husband. The primary message of the rally was for the community to reach out to Senator Scott Brown to raise his awareness about health clinics importance in women's lives.

New SCW Logo: The commissioners discussed Michelle's latest changes to the proposed update, made a few additional suggestions, and passed the new logo. The reviewed the former brochure for changes and updates. Michelle and Marie-Annett will work on text and design. **The deadline for the final brochure and logo project is April 25.**

### **New Business**

May 15: Save Our Homes Walk: There will be several commissioners and Sonja walking on behalf of the SCW and raising funds.

May 18: Cancer Awareness Gathering: The SCW will sponsor a cancer resources awareness hour at the next monthly meeting from 7-8pm. The commission will hold its monthly meeting immediately following the discussion.

June 15: Somerville Family Fun Day SCW Table: The SCW will have a table at the next annual Family Fun Day at Trum Field. The table will have face painting on one half and ceramic piggy bank design project for kids on the other. Local banks will be recruited to participate in the promotion of saving books for kids.

July 16: ArtBeat SCW Table: The SCW will have a table at the next annual ArtBeat event (normally the table is located behind Au Bon Pain next to the T).

New Quilt Projects: Michelle presented information and research about a proposed quilt project to support homeless women. She will continue to gather information, discuss with agencies, and update the commission in future meetings. Another avenue of the project is to create an artifact to celebrate the diverse women of Somerville and hang somewhere in the public.

## Action Items

- Cell phone drive outreach (4/30)
- Brochure and logo printing (4/25)
- Email commissioners about Save Our Homes Walk (4/21)
- Cancer Awareness discussion outreach (4/21-5/18)
- Nepali women's discussion outreach (5/1)
- Family Fun Day bank participation (4/22)
- Family Fun Day piggy bank art supplies to Recreation Department (4/21)
- ArtBeat Table Application (4/22)
- ArtBeat Table Supply List and Inventory (4/30)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

The next monthly meeting of the Somerville Commission for Women will be May 18 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Avenue), Somerville.