



Minutes

Brampton Women's Advisory Committee

The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Members Present: Angel Massey-Singh (Co-Chair)
Kathleen Douglass (Co-Chair)
Simrat Atwal
Lindsay Branton
Nadia Chandra
Simran Dosanjh
Eraj Waqar
Marjorie R. Taylor
Dominique Darmanin-Sturgeon
Regional Councillor R. Santos
Regional Councillor N. Brar

Members Absent: Kritika Chopra

Staff Present: Genevieve Scharback, City Clerk
Shanika Johnson, Manager, Equity Office, Corporate Services
Cindy-Ann Lewis, Coordinator, Equity Office
Chandra Urquhart, Legislative Coordinator

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered:

BWAC001-2025

That the agenda for the Brampton Women's Advisory Committee meeting of January 16, 2025 be approved, as published and circulated.

Carried

3. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

4.1 Minutes - Brampton Women's Advisory Committee - October 9, 2024

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on October 23, 2024, and approved by Council on November 20, 2024. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. **Delegations/Presentations**

5.1 Delegation by Rebecca Pacheco, Development and Education Manager, Embrace Agency to End Violence, re: Status update on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Peel

Rebecca Pacheco, Development and Education Manager, Embrace Agency to End Violence, provided a presentation on the status of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Peel. The following topics were highlighted:

- Embrace: Agency to End Violence is the lead agency of Peel Committee Against Women Abuse (PACWA)
- Vision and Mission
- Role of PACWA in the Region of Peel and Ontario

- Funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)
- Expectations include
 - strengthening partnerships. collaborating, and sharing information to improve accessibility and quality of services
 - sharing information on prevention, education and training to help raise awareness on the issue of GBV
- Municipalities (95) have declared gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario - including Region of Peel
- 2023 Peel Regional Snapshot
 - femicide
 - shelter and housing
 - poverty and social assistance
 - food insecurity

Committee discussion, comments and questions on this matter included the following:

- Reference to Peel Regional snapshot report and questions on reported number of calls
 - details on under reported cases, barriers that women face, stigma, fear and isolation
- What type of assistance is Embrace providing to the community and suggestions how the Committee may assist
 - sharing information within the community on events, such as, 'Take Back the Night', the 'Vigil on the Montreal Massacre' held annually on December 6th, the snapshot guide, and other resource development
- Collaboration with the Region of Peel and other municipalities and service providers, includes working together on campaigns, such as, intimate partner violence, public education and raising awareness
 - campaigns encourage more people to request assistance, however service providers are at capacity and are unable to assist due to their mandate and lack of funding

- Update regarding the request to the Province on Bill 173 to declare Gender Based Violence as an epidemic
 - Bill was forwarded to a standing committee in the province to undertake further research on the matter
- Consideration for accelerated action on the proposed Bill 173, given that International Women's Day will be recognized on March 8, 2025
 - acknowledgement that action is required to gain support from the province and suggestions of ways to bring about meaningful change
 - need for funding
 - suggestion of a petition to be presented to the province
- Whether there is a time limit on the duration that persons are accommodated at emergency shelters
 - Embrace is mandated as an emergency shelter and average stay is limited to four months to assist survivors with the next steps, including the legal and housing application process
 - Re-admission to the facility is low, however community outreach programs continue to offer support as required
- Details shared regarding ways to contact Embrace for assistance, such as, through the police, hospitals and referrals by community partners
- Measures are in place to ensure that all cultures and communities have access to the support provided by Embrace, and interpreters are brought in as required
- Location of Embrace is fully accessible as required by the province
- Support staff are trained and they are continually provided with upgraded training, such as, proficiency with new technology, and skills to support newcomers, including the LGBTQ+ community
 - agencies such as the Region of Peel are brought in to assist with training

In response to comments regarding funding, clarification was provided that the Committee is mandated to function in an advisory capacity and that promoting awareness to the community at this point would be appropriate in order to gain support for the passing of Bill 173.

The following motion was considered:

BWAC002-2025

That the delegation by Rebecca Pacheco, Development and Education Manager, Embrace Agency to End Violence, to the Brampton Women's Advisory Committee meeting of January 16, 2024, re: **Status update on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Peel** be received.

Carried

5.2 Presentation by Shanika Johnson, Manager, Equity Office, Corporate Support Services, re: Brampton Women's Advisory Committee - Survey Results

Shanika Johnson, Manager, Equity Office, Corporate Support Services, and Cindy-Ann Lewis, Coordinator, Equity Office, provided a presentation on survey results for the Brampton Women's Advisory Committee, highlighting the following topics:

- Priorities
- Areas of interest
- Policy suggestions
- Partnership opportunities
- Brampton stories
- Dates of commemoration
- Key considerations

Staff noted a comment from Committee that one of the agencies listed should be referenced as the 'Congress of Black Women of Canada'.

The following motion was considered:

BWAC003-2025

That the presentation by Shanika Johnson, Manager, Equity Office, and Cindy-Ann Lewis, Coordinator, Equity Office, Corporate Support Services, to the Brampton Women's Advisory Committee meeting of January 16, 2025, re: **Brampton Women's Advisory Committee - Survey Results** be received.

Carried

6. Reports/Updates

6.1 Verbal update by Meagan Guerra, Manager, Events and Protocol, Corporate Services, re: Plans for International Women's Day

Meagan Guerra, Manager, Events and Protocol, Corporate Services, advised that International Women's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the Rose Theatre. Several events were being planned and the theme for this year's activities will be 'acceleration action', and will include the following:

- An artist market on women owned businesses - currently working with Brampton's Arts Organization on this feature
- Community organization booths, flower walls, checklist activity and live entertainment
- Panel discussion featuring various speakers
- 'Bif Naked' concert in the main theatre

In response to questions, staff advised that the members may assist with sharing and promoting the event within the community. Further details were provided on various activities. Committee members will be contacted to assist once the promotional materials were available.

7. **Upcoming Pertinent Issues**

Nil

8. **Other/New Business/Information Items**

8.1 Discussion at the request of Angel Massey-Singh, Co-Chair, re: Communication Channel

Angel Massey-Singh, Co-Chair, inquired about the appropriate communication channel for the Committee.

The City Clerk advised that all questions pertaining to the business of the Committee should be directed to the Committee coordinator. Conversations should not take place through emails and items that require comments from the Committee may be listed for discussion on the agenda.

8.2 Discussion at the request of Angel Massey-Singh, Co-Chair, re: Planning for Future Meetings

In response to comments and questions regarding the mandate of the Committee, the City Clerk advised that Committee members are welcome to

bring or suggest matters for consideration on an agenda, such as having a group or an agency appear as a delegation.

The City Clerk further outlined the process the Committee is required to follow, such as, putting forward a request for staff resources or funding, to assist with a Committee activity, noting that a motion on the Committee's position may be brought to Council for consideration through a recommendation.

9. **Correspondence**

Nil

10. **Question Period**

Nil

11. **Public Question Period**

Nil

12. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered:

BWAC004-2025

That Brampton Women's Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Carried

Angel Massey-Singh, Co-Chair

Kathleen Douglass, Co-Chair