

Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee

2019 and 2020 Annual Reports and 2021 Work Plan

Recommendation

That the April 14, 2021, Office of the City Manager report CR_8080, be received for information.

Executive Summary

The report summarizes highlights and outcomes of the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) committee during its sixth and seventh year of operation; from May 2019 - April 2020, and October 2020 - March 2021 respectively. The report outlines some of next year's plans.

Report

The Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton was established in May 2014 as a City Council Advisory Committee under Bylaw 16658. It comprises 15 community volunteers appointed by City Council. It is a key deliverable arising from the Women's Initiative, a Council Initiative on gender equity sponsored by Mayor Iveson and Councillor Esslinger.

WAVE's mandate is to:

- make recommendations to City Council about women's gender-based issues and opportunities in relation to City policies, priorities and decisions;
- promote leadership development to empower Edmonton women to fully participate in civic life; and
- research and provide information on resources about women's gender-based issues and opportunities in Edmonton.

2019-2020 Highlights and Accomplishments

WAVE's key accomplishments:

- Seven new community members were interviewed, selected and orientated.
- Provided input on nine City plans, initiatives and reports to City Council including:
 - Bus Redesign/ Transit Strategy
 - Disabled Adult Transit System (DATS)
 - City Plan

- Early Learning and Care Spaces
 - LRT Station Security Update and Progress Report
 - Vehicle for Hire
 - First Kilometer, Last Kilometer Community Solutions
 - Diversity and Inclusion Framework
 - Edmonton Safe Cities Tool
- Collaborated on the development of new leadership resources to encourage women to get involved in running for public office. This includes working with EqualVoice Impact Bot, The YegParity Bot, and supporting partnerships with YEGParity and other community organizations.
- Completed collaboration and outreach through presentations at WAVE meetings.
- MC'd the Women's Initiative 2020 International Women's Day event, which included a panel of women in male dominated employment settings and Senator Paula Simons as the keynote speaker.
- Attended and partnered with eight community events in support of women's gender equity.
- Supported various city departments to apply a GBA+ lens with City plans, key initiatives and council reports.
- WAVE participated in training to support their understanding and enable a response to the recommendations outlined in Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Posted two new blogs (See Attachment 1, WAVE's Annual Report May 2019 - April 2020).
- The Leadership, Engagement and Communication, Reconciliation and Allyship, and Policy working groups continued their work until April 2020. The work resumed in January 2021 with a slight adjustment to the organization. The Leadership and Engagement and Communication working groups merged and are now known as Leadership and Engagement.

2020-2021 Highlights and Accomplishments

The year that was 2020-2021 presented some unique challenges with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Administrative support to the committee was unavailable as resources were shifted to deal with pandemic responses. The Committee was fairly inactive from May 2020 until October 2020 when staff were recalled and support was reestablished to the committee with its first meeting in November. The committee was still able to accomplish the following highlights:

- Partnered with the YWCA on a 2021 International Women's Day online event that discussed women and leadership and featured past and present members of the WAVE Committee and Councillor Esslinger, approximately 130 people attended
- The Policy Working group is providing safety and accessibility recommendations to Vehicle for Hire
- The Reconciliation and Allyship working group is developing a land acknowledgment guide for WAVE Committee members to reflect and create meaningful and personalized land acknowledgements
- WAVE joined Instagram (@equalityyeg) and in March began engaging on the platform
- The WAVE committee had 4 presentations at their main monthly meeting, topics included Bus Network Redesign, updates on the work the Accessibility Advisory Committee is doing with Vehicle for Hire, the UN Safe Cities work, and No Women Without Period. These presentations serve as an opportunity for groups to consult with WAVE and for WAVE to develop relationships and work together.
- Co-hosted two Black History Month Events in February 2020. One with Norquest and the other with Black Canadian Women in Action (BCW)
- March 8, 2020 WAVE MC'd an in person International Women's Day event hosted by the Women's Initiative with approximately 300 attendees and over 20 partner organizations tabling the event.

2021-2022 Plans

- Next year's plans include:
 - Select and review several Civic policies with an emphasis on women's priority issues such as public transportation, vehicles for hire, and safety;
 - Continue to review City policies, procedures, and plans using a GBA+ lens;
 - Participate in the Community driven International Women's Day events;
 - Host events and partner with groups that support women's participation in the 2021 municipal election and elections at other levels of government.
 - Follow the applicable calls to action outlined in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* through training, land acknowledgements, working with elders, and other opportunities that arise through partnerships in the community
 - Continue to support women's outreach and events.
 - Devote time to more training and learning opportunities for WAVE members, identified topics of interest include chair training, a blanket exercise, additional GBA+ training (Members currently trained in the online Federal training), and other opportunities as identified

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Measures

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
2019-2020 Citizens and community organizations are aware of WAVE WAVE collaborates with community partners to identify, profile, and address women's issues and needs, and educate about women's roles and leadership opportunities City services/policies reflect the needs and interests of women	# of new groups reached through (meetings, events, social media)	35	10
	# of individuals reached through (meeting and events)	~1200	800
	# review request addressed by the committee (policy, plan, report)	9	4
2020-2021	# of new groups reached through (meetings, events, social media)	1	10
	# of individuals reached through (meeting and events)	130	800
	# review request addressed by the committee (policy, plan, report)	1	4

Attachments

1. WAVE's Annual Report, May 2019 - April 2020