



REGULAR MEETING – NORWALK COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUITY AGENDA

**NOVEMBER 10, 2025, 7:00 PM
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Michelle Woods Matthews at mwoodsmatthews@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. Approval of Minutes of previous meetings of July 14, 2025**
- IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- V. UPDATES FROM THE COMMITTEES**
 - A. Legislative Advocacy Committee**
 - B. Outreach Committee Updates**
 - 1. Discuss the Connecticut Boat Club's interest in meeting with the Commission to promote rowing among girls.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bylaws discussion “Discuss revisions to Commission on Gender Equity’s bylaws.”**
- B. Identifying an action agenda for the new Mayor**
- C. Commission Calendar, including legislative priorities, Months, Women's International Day, Awards program etc.**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Summary of items**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**NORWALK COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUITY
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Kristina Testa-Buzze, Shannon O'Toole Giandurco, Ivonne Zucco, Sharon Baanante, Joy Futaba DeJaeger, Kim Squires, Jasmine Prezzie, Chantal Coffy, Emma Dignoti

STAFF: Michelle Woods-Matthews, Director of Communications

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Testa-Buzze called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

A Roll Call of those present was performed.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: June 9, 2025

The following corrections were discussed:

Dr. Testa-Buzze stated, for the matter of the record, where it says Ms. Testa-Buzze, they requested to be referred to as Dr. Testa-Buzze. That was strictly for the minutes.

Ms. Baanante noted some of the updates or adjustments that they wanted to the last set of minutes were published on the first page; these typically get noted on the old minutes. She advised Ms. Futaba DeJaegar's statements were listed under the Legislative Advocacy Committee, they should be under the Outreach Committee. On Page 5, paragraph 4, they should strike the entire last sentence.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco noted her last name was spelled two different ways throughout the minutes. There should be an "e" at the end.

****MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

****MS. COFFY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED WITH 8 IN FAVOR AND 1 ABSTENTION (MS. PREZZIE).**

Ms. Dignoti arrived at 7:06 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Legislative Advocacy Committee

Ms. Baanante summarized work on state-level advocacy and coalition-building. Advising that the current Commission Bylaws do not specifically authorize state legislative advocacy. The Bylaw review process was discussed.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco clarified that the proper sequence requires announcement, then motion on future agenda, public comment/public hearing, and possible corporation counsel review. The timeline likely spans at least three meetings.

Ms. Baanante and Dr. Testa-Buzze agreed to contact Corporation Counsel for procedural clarification.

B. Outreach Committee

Ms. Futaba DeJaeger reported meeting with Will Schwartztein, Norwalk Park and Rec's Children's Athletic Program Director, and their willingness to collaborate on further programs. They reported a 28% increase in female participation in volleyball programs and 10% for basketball. Additional programming aimed towards inclusive family participation was discussed, such as Stroller-friendly fitness and Zumba.

Ms. Baanante and Ms. Futaba DeJaeger agreed the goal is gender breakdown across all programs and equitable city resource allocation. Ms. Futaba DeJaeger agreed to meet again with Will Schwartztein to pursue comprehensive participation data.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Priority Topics

Dr. Testa-Buzze shared that she, Ms. O'Toole Giandurco, and Ms. Zucco recently discussed the Commission's direction, prompted by the topic of legislative advocacy. She wanted to revisit a survey from a year ago that identified both priority issues and how Commissioners wanted to spend their time.

She noted the Commission has focused on areas previously identified as priorities. There are currently two vacancies and three members, including herself, whose terms expire in September. She emphasized aligning efforts with city resources and suggested the legislative advocacy committee consider drafting a one-page set of gender equity recommendations for the incoming mayor.

Dr. Testa-Buzze then shared her screen to briefly review past survey results from 2023 and their follow-up in August 2024. She noted the priorities were based on Commissioner input and stressed the need to balance those with the time members are willing to commit. She highlighted community engagement as a key focus.

Ms. Coffy raised violence against women as a key issue. Ms. Zucco supported using the broad term to cover all forms. Ms. Baanante said the Legislative Advocacy Committee is already working on related bills.

Ms. Prezzie asked how the Commission plans to address the issue; through legislation, support, or awareness.

Dr. Testa-Buzze proposed a dual approach and suggested a community window display campaign during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

B. Commission Calendar

A proposal to assemble a yearly calendar of key advocacy dates (legislative session, critical months like Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness) was discussed.

Ms. Zucco volunteered to help draft and present a calendar while Ms. Baanante will provide a legislative one.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Testa-Buzze to follow up with the City regarding the implementation status of menstrual products in public bathrooms.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2025, in person at City Hall.

- ** MS. PREZZIE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. DIGNOTI SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM

Respectively submitted,
Courtney Baldwin