

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager



CITY OF WORCESTER

Human Rights Commission Meeting Summary
June 6, 2011 6:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber

Present: Edward Robinson, Eduardo Rivera, Mable Millner, Edward Kwiyup, Kathleen Gervais, Cara Berg Powers, Edward Kwiyup, Cheryl Pope, Harry Danso

Guests: Herbert Cremer, Disabilities Commission

Staff: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.
- II. Approval of May Meeting Minutes – May minutes approved with corrections.
- III. Old Business:
 - a. Know Your Rights Outreach Plan Update
 - i. Eduardo Rivera held this item until the July meeting, and requested James Estrella forward a copy of the draft- presentation to new commissioner Harry Danso for his review.
 - b. Human Rights Commission Brochure Update
 - i. Additional revisions needed to be made to include a new photograph and revised mission statement
 - ii. Cheryl Pope mentioned photographs from past Eleanor Hawley Awards that may be used – Harry Danso made a motion for James to locate the images – approved
 - c. Civic Initiative – Hope Coalition Update
 - i. The Hope Coalition is a member of “Teens Leading the Way,” a statewide coalition to push civic engagement. She passed out a flyer to the commissioners. Cara Berg Powers will be meeting with the Hope Coalition in the next few weeks
 - d. Youth For Human Rights Update
 - i. Eduardo Rivera, Chair, provided summary of idea for “Youth for Human Rights” to the commission. The Chair submitted a proposal and requested James Estrella to forward to all the commissioners for their review.
 - ii. Eduardo Rivera would like to have a youth award, similar in fashion to the Eleanor Hawley Award. Eduardo expressed that it can be an opportunity to incorporate and bring back the Thurgood Marshall Essay Contest. Possibly name the event after an outstanding youth in the city of Worcester history.
 - e. Declaration of United Nations Human Rights Day Update
 - i. Cara Berg Powers motioned to hold this item – approved.

IV. New Business:



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- a. Loving Day Proclamation
 - i. Proclamation was approved with amendments. Commission requested James Estrella to deliver the proclamation to the Mayor's office to be declared and read at the June 7th City Council Meeting.
 - b. Additional Training
 - i. Mandatory Fair Housing Training – there will be an additional training scheduled for the Commission on Disabilities. Any Human Rights Commission member that was not able to attend the 5/19/11 training is welcomed to attend the next training. The Commission requested James Estrella to notify them when the next training is scheduled.
 - ii. Mabel Millner and Edward Robinson spoke to the Open Meeting Law training held by the Attorney General's Office on 6/1/11. Commission requested James Estrella select a few dates for them to have a training session with Pam Callahan, Training Coordinator.
- V. Public Comment:
- i. Herb Cremer, Disabilities Commission, presented a few newspaper articles to the commissioners regarding bullying.
- VI. Under Suspension:
- a. Cheryl Pope requested a list of projects the Commission intends to work on in order to establish a sense of what is priority and who would be willing to form a subcommittee. – Approved
 - b. Eduardo Rivera spoke to having subcommittees to work on each project, citing the commission currently has one for the Eleanor Hawley Award.
 - c. Mabel Millner made a motion that the commission consider holding meetings in the community in September – Cheryl Pope made a friendly amendment to include weather permitting – approved.
 - d. Mabel Millner requested James contact WPS and request Rob Pezzella speak to commission on their Bullying Policy.
 - e. Mabel Millner motioned to have James Estrella write a letter of support on behalf of the Human Rights Commission to the Human Rights Commission of Springfield, MA due to the tornado last week. –approved
 - i. Cara Berg Powers amended the motion – if there is no Human Rights Commission in Springfield, MA to please send the letter to the Springfield City Council. – accepted.
 - f. Mabel Millner announced the African American Juneteenth Festival. It will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 12pm-7pm at Institute Park. This event is sponsored by the Henry Lee Willis Center.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: James Estrella, Staff Liaison

**Next Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2011.
Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd floor City Hall
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**