

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Summary
Date: June 2nd, 2015
Worcester City Hall, 4th Floor

Members Present: Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Jennifer Madson, Elizabeth Tomaszewski, Karen Pelletier, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf

Members Absent: Kathy Linton, Athena Haddon

Guests: Lisa Vickers, Theona Reels-Lourens

Staff: Catherine Nash, Human Rights Specialist, Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

2. Welcome and Introductions:

Guests Theona Reels-Lourens and Lisa Vickers were introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

3. Approval of the May 5th 2015 Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Tomaszewski and seconded by Ms. Pelletier to accept May Minutes.

4. Debrief of Joint Committee Meeting with speakers from Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, WAASE:

Members were impressed with the organization and the changes already implemented by the Police Department and specifically want to follow up on: facilitating the Ray of Light training within the entire department, posting the outreach worker telephone numbers in the booking room, and, in the event of an arrest, booking officer to alert the Spectrum outreach worker. Ms. Pelletier made a motion seconded by Ms. Madson to work with the Human Rights Commission to request this as policy.

5. Young/Women of Consequence, Y/WoC, Planning:

Ms. Bethea mentioned that letters should go out in early Fall announcing and soliciting nominees for the awards and asked the liaison to confirm room availability and to provide a planning tool for the next meeting. Ms. Currie spoke of sponsorship for the event comparing it to the Celebration of 25 years of the ADA. Members liked the idea of sponsorship and also discussed inviting related women's organizations to table at the event.

6. Budget Policy Discussion:

The members discussed expenses for the Y/WoC including flowers and refreshments that ran approximately \$100.00 for the last event. The members discussed drawing up a formal budget request and Ms. LeBoeuf volunteered to do a budget. Ms. Gruhin's motion for a budget was seconded by Ms. Madson.

7. Discussion of new members:

The Chair mentioned that two members' terms will soon end, and she wanted to review the bylaws to discuss increasing the number of members on the board. The Liaison is to provide a list of all committees and number of members.

8. Next Agenda Items:

The women's survey, Ms. Haddon's guest speaker, brochure, Committee bylaws, Advocacy day debriefing, relevant meetings attended including LINK 2015, an update on the list of projects/issues, Y/WoC.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm with a motion by Ms. Tomaszewski seconded by Ms. Gruhin.