

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Meeting Summary
Date: July 21st 2015 5:30pm
Room # 401, City Hall (4th Floor)

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

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 5:30pm.

2. Approval of the June 2nd 2015 Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Tomaszewski and seconded by Ms. LeBoeuf to accept the June 2nd Minutes.

3. Approval of the June 2nd 2015 Joint Commission Minutes:

A motion was made by Ms. Tomaszewski and seconded by Ms. Madson to accept the Minutes with corrections.

4. Date for the Next Elections:

A motion was made to hold elections today. The election was held with the nominees for Chair being Ms. Ms. LeBoeuf and Ms. Bethea. There were no new nominations for Vice Chair, and Ms. Currie confirmed her willingness to continue in that position. Ballots were cast and submitted to the Chair who announced that Ms. LeBoeuf would be the next Chair with Ms. Currie remaining as Vice Chair.

5. Annual Report:

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed, reviewed and a motion to accept the Annual Report was made by Ms. Currie and seconded by Ms. Linton.

6. Discussion of the ACSW Brochure:

Ms. LeBoeuf volunteered to update it with the change in Chair, and members agreed to keep this as an agenda item on future agendas to ensure its frequent update. Ms. Madson volunteered to draft a Spanish version update.

7. Women's Needs Assessment Survey:

As all of the questions were consistent in Constant Contact, Survey Monkey and the hard copy versions, Ms. Currie made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Madson. Also, Ms. Madson volunteered to translate it into Spanish. Ms. Currie made a motion to begin sending out the survey with the Spanish translation to be reviewed and go out in August.

8. Discussion of the Bylaws:

A motion to table this item until the August meeting was made by Ms. LeBoeuf and seconded by Ms. Haddon, in order to consider it in its entirety and discuss possible changes.

9. Members' Reports:

Ms. Currie described the UN GIFT box project, a walk-in street sculpture, built to raise awareness of human trafficking. Members discussed hosting the GIFT box in Worcester. Ms. Madson gave a brief review of the City initiative, Community Dialogues on Race, stating that it gave a good snapshot of community issues and more information could be found online.

10. Project /Issue assignments and report back:

- a) **STEM:** Ms. Tomaszewski reported there were no updates at this point.
- b) **Sexual Exploitation:** Ms. Haddon reported good police support in following up on sex crimes and also increasing the number of men in the Community Approach to Reduce Demand, CARD, classes for Johns.
- c) **Child care:** Ms. Bethea reported that Ms. Pamela Flores would be the guest speaker in the ACSW September meeting.
- d) **Infant Mortality:** Ms. Currie noted that she had received the 2013 and 2014 Annual Reports from the Healthy Baby Collaborative and will share them with the Committee.

11. Next Agenda Items:

Follow up discussion on Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, WAASE, Women's Needs Assessment Spanish Translation update, ACSW brochure, and Announcements.

12. Adjournment at 6:40pm