

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



Jennifer Maddox, Chair
Deborah Hall, Vice Chair
Donna Connolly
Amanda Gregoire
Heidi Sue LeBoeuf
Jennifer Madson
Ariel Lim
Benjamin Roberts

City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women
Tuesday March 28th, 2017, 6:00 PM
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber 3rd Flr.

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Jennifer Maddox , Donna Connolly, Amanda Gregoire, Deborah Hall, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Jennifer Madson, Ariel Lim
Absent: Benjamin Roberts
Staff: Jayna Turchek, Dr. Mattie Castiel and Simon Elliott

1. **Call to Order and Introductions at 6:05pm**
2. **Review of minutes December 15th, 2016, and February 7th, 2017**

Connolly motioned to approve the minutes as written. Hall seconded. Unanimously approved.

3. **New Business:**

A. Request from Center for Nonviolent Solutions for Committee to sponsor civil rights reading at City Hall tentatively May 2nd.

Director Turchek read a request from the Center for Nonviolent Solutions for the Committee to co-host a civil rights reading. The Center is a non-profit committed to working to resolve conflicts and teach students and youth conflict resolution skills at the individual level. The Center is looking for hosts to sponsor an event titled "We Grow into Courage: A dramatic reading featuring accounts from women in SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), and to hold that event in a public space, such as the Levi Lincoln Chamber. LeBoeuf motioned to accept the request, and to hold the event at 5:45PM on May 2nd. Madson seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

B. MA Commission on the Status of Women Advocacy Day (May 17th)

This annual day of advocacy is in Boston and organized by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. It provides a chance for individuals to meet people from the state-level Commission, regional chapters and well as members of the Women Caucus. Director Turchek will send the Committee members a reminder so that those that are able to attend or are interested in attending can coordinate with one another.

4. **Old Business- Discussion:**

A. Equal Pay Day/Women's Economic Literacy Event

Gregoire informed the Committee that Merryl Lynch will be unable to hold an event for the Committee; Gregoire will continue to search for some other organization to hold this event, as the event is still a month away. Director Turchek informed the Committee that she will seek a Mayoral Proclamation to be read on



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Tuesday, April 4th, 2017, and have a member of the Committee receive the proclamation at the City Council meeting. Chairperson Maddox will do so.

B. Review data for mental health campaign for women

Chairperson Maddox informed Dr. Castiel, and those members that were not present at the February meeting, that the Committee is exploring the possibility of the Committee chipping in to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Dr. Castiel suggested the Committee work on educating the community around mental health issues, and that now is a crucial time to openly address mental health, especially in light of the opioid epidemic.

LeBoeuf proposed that the Committee, given the nature of its charter, could focus on women-specific issues such as the diagnosing of depression, post-partum depression and suicide. Dr. Castiel informed the Committee that she will have a student from Clark University coming this summer to focus in on mental health data around the city of Worcester in order to identify possible next steps and improvements can be made in the city.

Madson suggested that the Committee partner with some organization in the city to pursue some of these ends. LeBoeuf will do more research around this issue. Lim asked for clarification as to whether this document or PowerPoint, which will be presented and shared around the city, such as to City Council, that will focus on just women or mental health in general. The Committee agreed on making a PowerPoint. LeBoeuf will focus on what the insurance companies. Madson and Connolly will focus on the education piece. Maddox will investigate recruitment around the city. Hall will research the outreach piece. The Committee agreed that this research will be prepared for the week of April 24th, a week before the May Committee meeting.

C. Update on planning for 2017 International Women's Day (March 8th)

The Committee members expressed appreciation for the event, and thought that it was a fantastic event with great turnout. Hall thanked the members and staff of the Committee for having attended and having assisted with the food. Hall informed the Committee that the YWCA will be debriefing this coming Friday, March 31st, 2017. Hall also thanked Madson and Connolly for their contribution to the food to the event.

D. Planning for ACSW 40th year anniversary (2017)

Director Turchek circulated (in electronic form) an Excel document to the Committee with the names of past members of the ACSW. If this event is to happen in the fall, the email addresses and mailing addresses of these women would be needed, as well as conversations about the kind of work that the Committee was undertaking during their time. The primary objective is to locate and invite the largest group of women possible. Madson recommended that the past Women of Consequence be included. LeBoeuf recommended that the event include a memorial for Committee members that have passed, as well as a spot in City Hall to celebrate the achievements of the ACSW. Madson will verify will Girls Inc. around scheduling, as this event could serve as a sort of launching or warm-up event to Women of Consequence.

E. Update on planning for 100th year anniversary of women's right to vote

Gregoire informed the Committee that the meeting last month was cancelled, and that she is unsure if it has been rescheduled and will check back with the Committee once she finds a new date.

5. Strategic planning follow up:

A. Review timeline, next steps, and assignments for next meeting

For next meeting, there will be progress on the Equal Pay Day and the Mayoral Proclamation, and that for the May meeting there will be a more extensive discussion of the mental health awareness campaign.

6. Next Meeting: April 4th, 2017 at 5:45PM in the Levi Lincoln Chamber, City Hall, 3rd

7. Adjournment at 6:56 pm