

**City of Worcester  
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

**Meeting Summary  
Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 5:30pm  
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Members Present:** Sonya Atherley, Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Kathleen Linton, and Elizabeth Tomaszewski

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

**2. Approval of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes:**

On a motion made by Ms. Bethea and seconded by Ms. Tomaszewski, the Committee voted to approve the minutes as written.

**3. Membership Update:** The last vacancy has been filled by Jessica Donovan. She is expected to start at the July meeting.

**4. Election of Officers**

Ms. Bethea was the only nominee for the position of Chairperson and she was elected unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Linton was the only nominee for the position of Vice-chairperson and she was elected unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

The new officers will start July 1, 2013.

**5. Women's Health Education:**

A. Planning for public hearing

Ms. Linton researched public hearings and found there are two options, a formal and informal hearing. The difference is that in an informal hearing those testifying are proponents of the issue while a formal hearing includes proponents and opponents of the issue. She stated that the reasons for holding a hearing would be to increase community awareness, increase visibility for the work of the Committee, give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns, and help the community to make connections to legislators/leaders.

A discussion ensued as to what should be the topic of the hearing. Ms. Linton proposed Earned Paid Sick Time. Pay Equity was also considered but a couple members felt they needed more information. Members will review the legislative priorities and the discussion will be continued in the July meeting. The tentative hearing date is early November.

**6. Drafting of Annual Report to the City Manager**

Ms. Gruhin volunteered to draft the annual report for review at the July meeting.

**7. Community Announcements:**

Ms. Tomaszewski requests members participation for the Breast Cancer Awareness event. She will bring information to next month's meeting. Ms. Bethea shared that Women in Action will be having their mid-year Goals Check-In on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm at the Worcester Public Library. There will also be a Women's Symposium on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Worcester State University. The Symposium will include a panel on Entrepreneurship for college students and a networking session.

**8. Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. Gruhin the meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.