

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.  
City Manager



Heather Borelli  
Priscilla Elsass  
Amanda Gregoire  
Deborah Hall  
Ariel Lim  
Coretta McCarter, Chairperson  
Elisa Rosales, Vice Chair  
Casey Thomas

## Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

### MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday January 7, 2020, 5:45 PM

Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber

**Present:** Heather Borelli, Priscilla Elsass, Deborah Hall, Ariel Lim, Coretta McCarter, Elisa Rosales, Casey Thomas  
**Absent:** Amanda Gregoire  
**Staff:** Jayna Turchek

#### 1. Call to order and introductions at 5:48pm.

2. **Review and approval of December 3, 2019 meeting minutes:** Committeewoman Elsass motioned to approve as written, Committeewoman Lim seconded. Unanimously approved as written.

#### 3. Old Business- Discussion

##### A. Present information for domestic violence listening sessions

Committeewoman Hall introduced guests Craig Mortley, Winifred Octave and Anne Bureau. Committeewoman Hall was contacted by Anne Bureau of the Worcester Community Connections (WCC) regarding a woman they knew who had lost her life in a domestic abuse incident. The YWCA together with the WCC Family Needs Committee subsequently held a panel discussion in which they identified some gaps in services. They want to go into the community to learn more and develop action steps to address. Notable from the 2019 statistics on domestic violence fatalities is that of the 28 fatalities many have contact with health care provider and police department but not domestic violence intervention services. In place already are two tools to address domestic violence in the larger community: 1. The domestic violence high risk team (holds perpetrators accountable) and 2. The Community Coordinated Response Network (CCRN). The ask of the guests tonight was for the ACSW to promote and disseminate information about three future information sessions and invite others to attend as well as co-facilitate sessions.

Chairperson McCarter recognized this is a critical issue and wanted dates of the listening sessions and a written proposal before taking a vote to co-host. The guests agreed to return in February.

##### B. Planning for 2020 Woman and Young Woman of Consequence Awards

- 6 nominations have been received to date for the Woman of Consequence and 0 nominations have been received to date for the Young Woman of Consequence. The google platform had been difficult for some users and Director Turchek offered for them to complete a hard copy and email her directly. Technical difficulties, specifically domain blocks, have reported from teachers and counselors logging on from worcesterschools.net

c/o Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights & Disabilities  
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- Confirm keynote and performers- Julia Mejia, newly elected Boston Councilor, is confirmed as keynote. Additionally all agreed that Jermoh Kamara would introduce the keynote. The Committee unanimously agreed to ask Amina Mohamad, Worcester's Poet Laureat to be the evening's performer. The poetry contest will be tabled to be reconsidered for next year's award ceremony.
- Finalized members roles for event
- Vice-Chairperson Rosales shared that she recently accepted a job out of state and today will be her last meeting.

**C. Follow up on series 1 of Wonder Women of Worcester exhibit**

- Draft invitation was reviewed and will be mailed to honorees, family and friends.
- 4. Next meeting Tuesday February 4, 2020.** Chairperson McCarter proposed to hold election for the Vice-Chairperson position and discuss the January 5, 2020 Telegram and Gazette article on Business Outlook 2020. Committeewoman Lim motioned to make it so, seconded by Vicechairperson Rosales, all agreed.
  - 5. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm** (Motioned by Chairperson McCarter, seconded by Committeewoman Lim)