

Chairperson
Edward G. Robinson



**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Members:
Cara Berg Powers
Harry Danso
Kathleen Gervais
Aaron Richman
Eduardo Rivera
Robyn Kennedy

Meeting Summary for October 6th, 2014
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Members Present: Cara Berg Powers, Harry Danso, Robyn Kennedy, Aaron Richman, Eduardo Rivera and Edward G. Robinson
Members Absent: Kathleen Gervais
Staff: Jayna Turchek and Sundar Layalu

1. **Call to order:** A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:08pm.
2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made by welcoming new member Robyn Kennedy.
3. **Approval of September 8th, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
4. **Old Business:**

a. Selection of awardee of 2014 E. Hawley Human Rights Award

i. Oral remarks by nominators

At the beginning, nominators of the candidates for E. Hawley Human Rights Award 2014 made remarks on their specific candidate. They highlighted the nominee's attributes and contributions to human rights in Worcester. After hearing from the public the committee reviewed the applications.

ii. Deliberation and selection

Commission members disclosed professional relationships they have with some of the nominees. In the first round five of the eight applications were promoted to the second round. Two finalists were selected. The awardees are: Laura Farnsworth and Anh Vu Sawyer.



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b. Planning for Eleanor Hawley Award and Human Rights Day Celebration (December 9th, 2014)

The Eleanor Hawley Award and Human Rights Day Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday December 9th, 2014 from 5-7pm in the Levi Lincoln chamber of City Hall. There was a discussion about the role of Commission members for the celebration including media promotion and development, programming and invitation, time allocation for awardees, and musical entertainment. It was agreed to limit the speech of each awardee to two minutes.

For the event set up and promotion, the Chairperson volunteered. He also volunteered to contact the nominators of the two awardees for pictures that can be used during the ceremony. Cara will take care of the program and invitation. Aaron will arrange for the jazz ensemble. Jayna will be responsible for informing awardees.

Jayna will request a Mayoral Proclamation and for the UN flag to be flown.

c. LGBTQ shelter survey

Jayna brought up the idea of the survey for shelters that had been discussed over a year ago. Item was tabled.

d. Events calendar update

Cara volunteered to update the calendar for the coming year. Tabled for later date.

e. Commissioners' update on championing a cause efforts

Each member was given an assignment to map a plan of action for their cause which includes a general outline with mid and end goals stated. The Championing a Cause will be an ongoing project of the Commission.

Cara attended a Families for Change meeting in which police accountability was discussed. She shared that a new app has been created by youth in Missouri called Five-0 and that information about the app was being shared.

The Chairperson attended a GLAD meeting and will be attending the LGBTQ Consortium meeting for GSAs on October 17th.

5. New Business

i) Young LGBTQ leaders meetings

The next consortium meeting will take place on October 17th at Worcester State University.

ii) Community data on diversity

Aaron is in support of working to compile diversity data in the city. Tabled for future conversation.

iii) Election of officers

Edward G. Robinson was re-elected (unanimously) for Chairperson and Aaron Richman was elected (unanimously) as Vice-chairperson.

6. Commissioners' Reports: See 4e above.

7. Location of next monthly meeting (November 3rd, 2014): City Hall

8. Public Comment

Gordon Davis shared that a community group is also planning a celebration for United Nations Human Rights Day. The Commission agreed to invite Gordon and the other organizers to the next meeting to discuss the two events.

9. Adjournment at 8:05pm