

Chairperson
Aaron Richman



Members:
Lilian Chukwurah
Shawna Curran
Izaida Gonzalez
Robyn Kennedy
Sean Lauziere
Ike McBride

Vice chairperson
Cara Berg Powers

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Monthly Meeting – Monday October 17th, 2016, 6pm
City Hall Esther Howland Chamber, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA

Members Present: Cara Berg Powers, Lillian Chukwurah, Izaida Gonzalez, Robyn Kennedy, Ike McBride, and Aaron Richman

Members Absent: Shawna Curran and Sean Lauziere

Staff: Jayna Turchek

- 1. Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman, called the meeting to order at 6:20pm. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Everyone introduced himself or herself.
- 2. Approval of June 6th, 2016 and August 15th, 2016 minutes:** Ms. Kennedy motioned to approve both as written. Seconded by Ms. Berg Powers and unanimously approved.
- 3. New Business**

A. Participation in Community/Neighborhood Watch Meetings

Director Turchek announced the upcoming city wide crime watch meeting to take place November 3rd at the police station. Members discussed whether Commission members should focus attention on attending neighborhood meetings. Director Turchek offered that an opportunity exists to educate the public about these meetings and to make them more accessible to all. It is an established channel to communicate concerns around all sorts of quality of life issues, not just public safety, and to have police officers and other city personnel offer responses and work towards solutions. Would be helpful if people who attended these meetings more closely represented the diverse populations in the neighborhoods where they meet.

Commission members were curious to know what is the follow up like after these meetings, whether notes or other documentation is gathered and what types of results do residents see as a result of their participation.



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Question of how do we create more space in those meetings to help people positively from the neighborhoods. How do we create room for everyone to participate? Crime in the title forms the dynamic.

Commission members were encouraged to attend city wide meeting, try to attend a local meeting and subject was tabled for future discussion.

B. Election of Officers

Director Turchek reviewed the process for nomination and voting on Commission leadership. Ms. Berg Powers nominated Mr. Richman as Chairperson and Ms. Kennedy and Mr. McBride nominated Ms. Berg Powers as Vice Chairperson. Both nominees accepted their nominations. A roll call vote was held for both positions and Mr. Richman was unanimously re-elected as Chairperson and Ms. Berg Powers was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chairperson.

C. Informational Communication: City of Worcester, October 6th, 2016 Press Release: WPD Recognized In Justice Department And Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Advancing Diversity In Law Enforcement Report

Report in on the city's website.

4. Old Business

A. Planning for FY'17

i. 2016 Eleanor Hawley Human Rights Award

- One nomination received to date. Members were encouraged to continue to publicize the open nomination process.
- Ms. Kennedy confirmed the YWCA is the venue for the award ceremony and celebration.
- There was a discussion around refreshments and it was agreed that a light continental breakfast (coffee, pastries) would be provided.
- A theme was discussed: Everyone should take a stand: Step forward and defend the rights of a refugee or migrant
- Ms. Berg Powers outlined a program for the award ceremony which she will type up for the next meeting.
- Dr. Carter and Martiza Cruz were both named as possible speakers.
- Mr. McBride offered to have youth provide music.
- Director Turchek will send out a save the date for all on the email listserv.

ii. Goals for FY'17: Tabled (Ms. Kennedy motioned, Ms. Berg Powers seconded and unanimously agreed)

B. Review of HRC FY'16 annual report: Tabled (Ms. Kennedy motioned, Ms. Berg Powers seconded and unanimously agreed)

5. Location of next meeting (November 14th, 2016): City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

Ms. Kennedy proposed a change of date for the November meeting from November 7th to November 14th.
Ms. Berg Powers seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

6. Public comment (3 minutes per individual): None at this time

7. Adjournment at 8:08pm