

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, December 21st, 2011

Dr. Green Room, Worcester Public Library – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

ACSW Members: Chairperson Marianne Sarkis, Sarah Gruhin, Elizabeth Tomaszewski, Kristen Lemire, and Chantel Bethea.

ACSW Members Absent: Daisy Reeves and Kathleen Linton.

City: Abby McCabe – City Manager’s Office

Minutes Prepared by: Abby McCabe

1. Welcome

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Ms. Tomaszewski, seconded by Ms. Gruhin, the minutes from November 16th were approved as written by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. Women of Consequence & Young Women of Consequence Awards Event

Women of Consequence Awards – Ms. Tomaszewski plans to nominate four women and Ms. Sarkis plans to nominate one maybe two women. The consensus of the group was that committee members can submit nominations but shall excuse themselves from the vote.

Members reported on contact thus far with the schools assigned to members at the November meeting. Since Ms. Paul is no longer on the Committee Ms. Bethea volunteered to follow up with Holy Name Central Catholic School on the Young Women of Consequence application. Ms. McCabe will send a follow up email to the principals and guidance counselors after the holidays in early January. Phone and in person follow up from committee members will continue until the application deadline of January 20th. The January 25th meeting will be a regular meeting and the application material will be distributed. The February 8th meeting will be a work session from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for committee members to vote on the young woman and woman of consequence candidates. Ms. McCabe will also provide the application to the Boys & Girls Club, the YWCA, Girls Inc and the Worcester Youth Center.

The Committee discussed donations for the scholarship fund for the young woman of consequence recipient. In the past we have had 5 women owned businesses donate \$100 each for a \$500 scholarship and committee members donated money towards a Barnes and Noble gift card for the honorable mention. The following were suggested to target to ask for donations: the School Committee members, City Councilors, Senator Chandler’s Office and other elected officials, WPI, National Grid, Hanover Theater, Worcester Business Journal, Coughlin Electric, Unum, Fallon, Harvard Pilgrim, Sovereign Bank and Bank of America. Ms. Gruhin volunteered to prepare a letter to send to the possible donors from the Committee.

The save the date email and post card will be sent in January after the holidays. The Committee reviewed and updated the YWOC score card. The Committee also discussed creating a score card for the WOC that emphasized impact on positive change in women's lives, leadership, and accomplishments as a community role model. Ms. Sarkis volunteered to create the scoring sheet.

4. Update Annual Performance and Action Plan:

Ms. Sarkis will provide the Needs Assessment Survey results and report to the Committee. Ms. McCabe will add this to the Committee's webpage. Developing an elevator pitch speech for the Committee and a spring forum were discussed as goals for 2012.

5. Other Business:

Ms. Gruhin and Ms. Lemire reported on recent events they attended (the book launch for the Voices of Worcester Women and the Massachusetts Conference for Women).

On a motion made by Ms. Tomaszewski and seconded by Ms. Gruhin, the Committee voted to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting is planned for **Wednesday January 25th** in the Dr. Green Room at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby McCabe