

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday August 1, 2012
City Hall, Room 401 – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

ACSW Members: Chairperson Marianne Sarkis, Sarah Gruhin, Kristen Lemire, Kathleen Linton, Chantel Bethea.

ACSW Members Absent: Elizabeth Tomaszewski and Daisy Reeves.

Others Present: Abby McCabe, City Manager's Office, Jayna Turchek, Human Rights and Disabilities Director and Heidi Sue LeBoeuf.

Minutes Prepared by: Abby McCabe.

1. Welcome

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Other Business:

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Worcester Business Journal's announcement for the 2012 Outstanding Women in Business Awards. The Committee discussed possible women that may meet the criteria for the award and reviewed the applications received as part of the 2012 Women of Consequence Awards. The Committee discussed nominating Mary Aframe as she is the owner of The Women's Image Center, which is a post-mastectomy boutique devoted to women who have undergone or are currently undergoing breast cancer surgery. Ms. Aframe is also actively involved in other volunteer organizations such as the American Cancer Society and The Pink Revolution.

On a motion made by Ms. Gruhin, seconded by Ms. Linton, the Committee voted to nominate Ms. Aframe for this year's Women in Business award by a vote of 5-0-0.

Ms. Gruhin will contact Ms. Tomaszewski to see if she would like to submit the nomination for Ms. Aframe since she initially nominated her for the Women of Consequence award. The nomination is due by August 15.

Young Women of Consequence Awards Review Continued

The Committee further discussed ways to improve for next year and it was mentioned to consider interviewing the finalist during the review process which should be decided early in the event's planning stages. It was also suggested to provide the young women with a template for the thank you letters to encourage them to thank the scholarship donors.

Review Committee Roster and Terms: Ms. Sarkis informed the Committee that she does not wish to be reappointed to a second term when her term expires at the end of August due to other commitments. Ms. Gruhin would like to be reappointed to a second three year term. The Committee will have three vacancies after Ms. Sarkis' term expires. Since the Committee needs five members for a quorum, it is important that new members be appointed. Ms.

McCabe informed the Committee that the next Citizens Advisory Council was in October but interested applicants should apply as they receive applicants on a rolling basis.

On a motion made by Ms. Bethea and seconded by Ms. Lemire, the Committee voted to nominate Ms. Gruhin as the Chairperson of the Committee on the Status of Women to begin in September approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Gruhin, seconded by Ms. Linton, the Committee voted to nominate Ms. Bethea as the new Vice Chairperson of the Committee on the Status of Women to begin in September approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

Additionally, Ms. McCabe notified the Committee that she would not be staff liaison after August and the new staff liaison will be the Human Rights and Disabilities Director, Ms. Jayna Turchek.

Fall Work Plan and 2012 Projects/Goals

The Committee members discussed possible projects and areas of interest which included; partnering with the YWCA on a holiday activity that is part of their domestic violence daybreak program, sexual assault in the military inspired by a movie and focus area of Pathways for Change, participation in community forums particularly during the upcoming months prior to the elections, participating and attending the Lighting the Way to a Cure event on October 10, and participation in local events to network and reach out to the community about the Committee.

Ms. Turchek reviewed the Committee's mission as stated in the Charter and encouraged the Committee members to focus on actions and activities that assist the Committee with reaching the goals to "formulate, encourage, promote and monitor programs and policies related to the status of women in the City".

The Committee discussed ways to meet the Committee's mission and each member shall bring at least three suggested themes and ideas to the next meeting on August 22.

Other:

Save the Date for the Massachusetts Conference for Women on December 6 in Boston. The Lighting the Way to the Cure event at UMass Memorial on October 10 and the Women in Action networking event on August 30. Ms. Bethea will also be speaking at an event at Green Hill Park on August 23 and Women Action will host a networking event on August 30 at the Hilton Garden.

On a motion that was duly made the Committee adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby McCabe