

Chairperson
Edward G. Robinson



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

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

Meeting Summary for August 4th, 2014
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber

- 1. Call to order:** All members were present, a quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.
- 2. Introductions:** The Commission welcomed Aaron Richman and he and the rest of the Commission provided brief biographies as a way of an introduction.
- 3. Approval of June 2nd, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved as written.
- 4. Approval of FY14 Annual Report to the City Manager:** Unanimously approved with one edit.

5. Old Business:

a. 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.

Kathy has been attending the Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation quarterly meetings and recently attended the Ray of Light training. She was asked to give the training to the Commission in the near future.

Aaron is interested in learning more about human trafficking as an overarching topic.

Harry is interested in working on human trafficking in particular around awareness and education. In general he is interested in educating the Ghanaian community in Worcester on their rights.

Eduardo would like to work on immigrant and refugee access to social services.



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- b. **Events calendar update:**
Harry shared with the Commission the calendar he created from last year. Cara volunteered to update the calendar for the coming year.
- c. **Community Mapping Project Update:** Jayna shared the community map with the Commission and read a few examples of submissions that have been received. The mapping project will continue through September 6th.

6. New Business:

- a. **Amendments to Human Rights Ordinance and new ordinance relative to gender identity and expression sent to City Council July 22nd, 2014.**
Jayna will inform the Commission of its passage.
- b. **PRIDE Parade and Tabling Update (September 6th, 2014)**
Cara, Edward Robinson, and Kathy will march in the parade. Harry and Aaron are unsure. Please meet at 10:30am at Institute Park. Edward Robinson has tee shirts.
- c. **Planning for Eleanor Hawley Award and Human Rights Day Celebration (December 10th, 2014)**
There was a brief review of the award and celebration from 2012. Cara recommended making this item first on the agenda for September and task out specific assignments for each member. Harry will look at his archives to lead a discussion on what worked and didn't work the last planning period for applications, location and flyer. Proposed timeline: September: finalize award announcement and set deadline for applicants for mid October so a vote can be made at the November meeting.

There was a brief discussion about when the election for new officers will take place. Eduardo motioned to hold elections in October to allow for time for new members to be appointed to the Commission. Cara seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Commissioners' Reports:

Kathy attended the Main South CDC meeting on human trafficking and announced a rally is being planned for October. She also attended the Ray of Light training on human trafficking.

Edward Robinson attended PFLAG, Swagley, Juneteenth and the South East Asian Festival. He also spoke at the Gathering for Community Unity.

8. Location of next meeting (August 12th, 2014): Joint ADA Hearing, City Hall

9. Location of next monthly meeting (September 8th, 2014): City Hall

10. No public comment

11. Adjournment at 7:36pm