

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 November 14th, 2016, 6pm
City Hall Esther Howland Chamber, 455 Main St., Worcester, MA

Members Present: Cara Berg Powers, Shawna Curran, Izaida Gonzalez, Robyn Kennedy,
and Aaron Richman

Members Absent: Lillian Chukwurah, Sean Lauziere and Ike McBride

Staff: Jayna Turchek

- 1. Call to Order:** A quorum was established and Human Rights Commission Chair, Aaron Richman, called the meeting to order at 6:18pm. The Chair welcomed the Commissioners. Everyone introduced himself or herself.
- 2. Request for Commission to sign on to unity statement as presented by Worcester Interfaith Coalition**

Ms. Kennedy brought up an item that could not have been foreseen at the time the agenda was set. She was contacted by the Worcester Interfaith Coalition with a request for the Human Rights Commission to sign on to a unity statement that will be read at a gathering at City Hall tomorrow evening. Ms. Kennedy shared copies of the statement with Commissioners. Ms. Kennedy motioned that the Commission sign statement and further recommend Mayor file a proclamation in same theme. Ms. Berg Powers seconded. Chairperson called for a vote and it was unanimously agreed.

- 3. Approval of October 17th, 2016 minutes:** Ms. Berg Powers motioned to approve October minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Kennedy and unanimously approved.

4. New Business

A. Report back on city-wide community watch meeting (November 3, 2016)

Please be advised of new website to view incidents in the city: www.crimereports.com

Ms. Turchek shared that the Worcester Police Department is sharing crime data with www.crimereports.com and encouraged the Commission to review the site.



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B. Selection of the 2016 E. Hawley Human Rights Award Winner

Ms. Berg Powers recognized that Eleanor Hawley and two past Human Rights Commission Chairpersons have passed away this year. Ms. Berg Powers suggested the Commission connect Mrs. Hawley's legacy to this year's event using social media and offered to assist.

Five nominations were received for the 2016 Eleanor T. Hawley Human Rights Award. Commissioners provided their ranking for the candidates and Dr. Joyce McNickles was the winner receiving 3 first place rankings, 1 second place and 1 fourth place. Ms. Berg Powers motioned to accept Dr. McNickles as the winner, seconded by Ms. Kennedy and unanimously agreed.

5. Old Business

A. Planning for Human Rights Day Awards Ceremony and Celebration

Ms. Kennedy confirmed the YWCA Board Room on the second floor is reserved for the speaking program from 10am-11:30am. The gymnasium and side aerobics rooms is reserved from 10am-2pm for use 11:30am-2pm. Ms. Kennedy also confirmed Ms. Cruz is interested in participating. Ms. Turchek confirmed Dr. Carter also agreed to speak. Ms. Kennedy also shared that the Girls Choice program will participate (approximately 10 girls). It was suggested that they be given a role in facilitating. Ms. Berg Powers suggested an allyship activity during breakfast ceremony and referenced an article about aspiring allyship.

Members brainstormed organizations to participate in the activity fair: Attorney General's Office, YWCA, Southeast Asian Coalition, SafeHomes, ACE, Ascentria Care Alliance, houses of faith. It was agreed that the reading of the UN declaration of human rights will open the community resource/fair. It was suggested that we seek input from people on how they want to see the articles translated in the city. Put up sticky paper and cards for people to place their ideas.

Ms. Berg Powers motioned to reach out to Worcester Wares to produce signs for businesses and residents to purchase: Worcester is no place for hate signs. Ms. Kennedy seconded.

Tasks:

- Ms. Turchek will order food and award and set up RSVP and send invites
- Ms. Gonzalez will ask Girls Choice to create an activity for the afternoon.
- Ms. Berg Powers will draft flyer and speaking program (business envelope size) and lead organizing activity fair

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

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

8. Adjournment at 8:06pm