

**City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women**

**Meeting Summary
Tuesday July 2nd, 2013, 5:30pm
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4th Floor**

Members Present: Sonya Atherley, Chantel Bethea, Robin Currie, Sarah Gruhin, Heidi Sue LeBoeuf, Kathleen Linton, Karen Pelletier, Jessica Donovan, and Elizabeth Tomaszewski

Staff: Jayna Turчек, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities, and Ryan Ollis, Intern

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Approval of June 4th, 2013 Minutes:

The Committee voted to approve the minutes as written.

3. Approval of Annual Report to the City Manager

Committee members offered edits to the Annual Report to the City Manager. At the suggestion of the chair, the Committee voted to table this item until the August 6th meeting to allow time for Ms. Gruhin to edit the annual report and resubmit it to the Committee.

4. Women's Health Education: Planning for public hearing

Ms. Linton reiterated the two types of public hearings, a formal and informal hearing. She stated the difference between an informal hearing those testifying are proponents of the issue while a formal hearing includes proponents and opponents of the issue. A hearing will increase community awareness, increase visibility for the work of the Committee, give the community an opportunity to voice their concerns, and help the community to make connections to city government. The information gathered from the hearing will be communicated to city and state officials and assist in Worcester's CHIP plan.

A discussion ensued as to what should be the topic of the hearing. A poll was conducted on the Committee member's interests and two issues were selected to be the topic of the hearing. The Committee decided to discuss health equity and disparity and violence.

The tentative hearing date is on October 29th at 5:30PM at a location TBD. This issue was tabled for further planning at the August 6th meeting.

5. Annual Women of Consequence Award Planning

The Committee discussed the Annual Young Women/Women of Consequence Award event. The Committee evaluated the award review and selection process. The Committee decided to work more closely with the local schools to find strong candidates for the Young Women of Consequence Award. The Committee members also decided to consider female community leaders who have made a substantial impact for the Women of Consequence Award. The Committee voted to table this item and agreed they wished to continue to review the process, and come up with methods to make the event more successful.

6. Community Announcements

Ms. Bethea announced Women in Action will hold a Women's Symposium on September 11th at Worcester State University. The Symposium will include a panel on Entrepreneurship for college students and a networking session.

Ms. Currie announced an ethical produced clothing sale for September's anti-slavery movement. The proceeds to "Not for Sale."

Ms. Tomaszewski announced that the PINK organization is holding "Lighting the Way to a Cure" in October at the UMass Medical School and suggested it would be good for the ACSW to be represented.

7. Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Gruhin the meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.