

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Levi Lincoln Chamber, City Hall, 455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608

[Teams Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 227 862 949 380 Passcode: aqf4iN

Call in: 469-998-7682 Access Code: 141 531 054

Spanish subtitles were made available over Teams

Attendance

Members Present: Taylor Rich

Members Present Virtually: Esther Boama-Nyarko, Amaris Gonzalez, Taylor Rich, Marcia Macri, Katie Roy

Staff: Samantha Sendrowski

Call to order

Committeewoman Roy called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. Quorum was established on a roll call (5/0/0).

Review and approval of June 6, 2023 meeting minutes

Committeewoman Rich made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Committeewoman Gonzalez seconded the motion. Unanimously approved on roll call (5/0/0).

Conversation with City of Worcester Human Resources Director

Postponed until January due to scheduling error.

Planning for January/February Meetings

Discussed wanting to have greater exposure for Woman of Consequence awardees. Committeewoman Macri would like to see their pictures on banners on Main Street. Committeewoman Gonzalez would like to discuss the mentorship program. February historically is used for scoring the Woman of Consequence applications. The committee discussed the need to recruit more members and consider different ways to do it, including reaching out to local colleges, Leadership Worcester, non-profits, the Chamber of Commerce and more.

Committeewoman Rich motioned that the January meeting be focused on recruitment and HR and the February meeting on preparing for the Women of Consequence Awards. Committeewoman Gonzalez seconded. Unanimously approved on roll call (5/0/0).

Planning for 2023 Women of Consequence Awards

- The Staff Liaison shared that Assumption University agreed to partner with the City again by offering scholarships to the Young Women of Consequence nominees and winner.
- **Approve nomination criteria and forms:** Committeewoman Gonzalez asked if there were any historical issues with the forms that should be considered. Issues identified included confusion over which form to use (Young Women submitting using the Woman form), and the Young Woman of Consequence not being self-nominated. Another issue identified was people not being clear that each form is judged individually, and that having multiple entries for one person does not factor into the scoring. The committee discussed ways to make the forms clearer.

- Committeewoman Rich motioned for the Young Women of Consequence form to have the option to be nominated by others or self-nominate and to approve the forms. Committeewoman Macri seconded. Motioned passed on a roll call (5/0/0).
- **Select theme:** Multiple themes were presented, including Mentorship, Inspire Inclusion (based on the 2024 International Women’s Day theme), Count Her In (based on the UN’s international women’s day theme), Let’s Lead, Leadership through Mentors, Turning Around and Reaching Behind/Creating a Path, Pathway to Leadership, Trailblazer, and Trailblazing through Mentorship. The committee discussed wanting to have a visual to go with the theme for promotions. Committeewoman Rich motioned for the theme to be Trailblazing through Mentorship. Committeewoman Gonzalez seconded. Motioned passed on a roll call (5/0/0).
- **Discuss outreach plan:** Updated the outreach spreadsheet to include LEI, Abbey Kelley School, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Welcoming Alliance for Refuge Ministry and Together for Kids Coalition. The committee discussed posting to social media and sharing within their networks.
- **Generate a list of potential keynote speaker(s):** Developed a list of keynote speakers aligned with the Trailblazing through Mentorship theme including Liz Hamilton of the Boys and Girls Club, Mari Gonazlez of El Buen Samaritano, the CEO of St. Vincent’s, Jermoh Kamara of the YWCA, Valerie Zolezzi-Wyndham of Promoting Good, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters CEO. Committeewoman Rich motioned to have Mari Gonzalez be the keynote speaker, with Jermoh Kamara as a backup. Committeewoman Macri seconded. Unanimously approved on roll call (5/0/0).
- **Brainstorm entertainment/arts components to the program:** Discussed making the event more engaging and adding a networking component. Confirmed the event is typically one hour. For networking, discussed having “human bingo” as people walk in, and awarding a prize. For entertainment, discussed having dance be a part of the program, and possibly engaging Ritmos, a local woman-owned business.

Election of Officers

Nominations opened for Chairperson. Committeewoman Macri self-nominated herself for Chairperson. Committeewoman Gonzalez self-nominated herself for Chairperson. Ms. Gonzalez is the new Chairperson by a roll call vote. (5/0/0)

Nominations opened for Vice Chairperson. Committeewoman Rich self-nominated herself for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Rich is the new Vice Chairperson by a roll call vote. (5/0/0)

Adjournment at 7:20pm

Next meeting Tuesday January 2, 2024, 5:45pm.

Lead topic: Annual conversation with City of Worcester Human Resources Director on the status of women in city employment and volunteer opportunities