

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

**Meeting Summary  
Tuesday September 3rd, 2013, 5:30pm  
Worcester City Hall, Room 401, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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

**Members Absent:** Sonya Atherley

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities  
Catherine Nash, Human Rights Specialist

**Members of the Public:** Tammie Allen, Rithika Kuluthila, and Jennifer Madson

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

**2. Approval of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 and August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes:**

On a motion made by Ms. LeBoeuf and seconded by Ms. Linton, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

**3. Planning for Public Hearing:**

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of selecting domestic violence (DV) as the topic for a public hearing. When reconsidering that format, other suggestions were made including a summit for social services agencies, a health fair, and a survey.. Ms. Bethea noted that the previously discussed topic of Sexual Education had held much interest, however, after discussion it was decided that a public hearing would not be possible at this time because it would require additional preparation that could not be completed in time for this October. The Committee agreed to invite YWCA and Pathways to Change to an upcoming meeting to discuss their agencies needs with respect to a public forum (either a hearing or other type of educational activity) around sexual education.

Ms. Bethea suggested the Committee could benefit from a a strategic planning training to help the Committee refine the future work and goals of the Committee for the upcoming year.

**4. Annual Women of Consequence Award Planning:**

- A. Review updated solicitation letters: After discussion, minor changes were agreed upon, and new dates were added to the solicitation letters.
- B. Review of Young/Women of Consequence Application: In reviewing the Young Women of Consequence application, the Committee decided to add: a bullet point stating the recipient must be present for the event, and a line for parental signatures. A date of March 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> was to be booked, depending on availability of the Levi Lincoln Chamber for the event. The ceremony will begin at 5:30pm and conclude by 7:30pm. Ms. Bethea

asked Ms. Turcek whether donations for the award could be solicited and Ms. Turcek stated she would find out.

(After Award planning, several community announcements were made about upcoming events including: Lighting the Way for a Cure at University of Massachusetts, the Women in Action Symposium at Worcester State University, and the cancellation of the fashion show event for the anti-slavery.)

**5. Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. Gruhin the meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.