

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 5, 2021, 5:45 PM

Virtual meeting on Cisco WebEx:
advisorycommitteeonthestatusofwomenwebex@cow.webex.com
Call in number: 415-655-0001; Access code: 160 850 2789

This meeting was not live streamed. A video recording is posted on the city website.

Members Present: Heather Borelli, Kayanna James, Ariel Lim, Samantha Sendrowski, Casey Thomas, Tracey Whitney, Rubby Wuabu

Members Absent: Coretta McCarter

Staff: Jayna Turchek

Call to order, introductions and instructions for virtual participation

The meeting was called to order at 5:49pm. A video produced for the Committee's 40th anniversary <https://youtu.be/s46iIbHA2zQ> was shared by Director Turchek to Committee members. Committee members spoke on the themes presented in the video and their feelings about it.

Review and approval of December 1, 2020 meeting minutes

Committeewoman Lim made a motion to approve minutes as written and Committeewoman Borelli seconded to approve the December 1 meeting minutes. All approved.

Old Business:

Finalize 2021 Women of Consequence Award Program –

Committee reviewed proposed theme for program. Committee members discussed suggestions for visual theme and music for program. Director Turchek to reach out to Worcester Arts Council regarding local Worcester artists. Artistic performances were discussed and the Committee discussed having Worcester Youth Poet Laureate as well as additional performance. Committeewoman Lim to reach out to Worcester Arts Council regarding poets.

Committee spoke about the schedule of program, as well as honoring everyday heroes during Covid with a moment of silence at beginning of program. Director Turchek suggested working with Cable Services for media from previous years awards. Committeewoman James suggested a “coming soon” poster of upcoming projects. Director Turchek provided keynote speaker suggestion of Tamara Lundy, President and CEO of Community Healthlink, Inc. Committee agreed to request Tamara Lundy as keynote speaker. Committeewoman Lim made a motion to approve the draft run of show and Committeewoman Sendrowski seconded to approve. All approved.

Update on 2021 Women of Consequence nominations/applications received (deadline for online submissions January 21, 2021) –

Committeewoman James brought up technical issues with online nomination form for young women. Director Turchek shared that there have been no reports of this as of yet. Director

Turcek also provided an update that there were 3 nominations for young women and 23 for women. Committee discussed that young women may need encouragement to apply.

Discussion of ACSW COVID family structures recommendations and next steps (Samantha Sendrowski) –

Committeewoman Sendrowski confirmed that Liz Sheehan Castro from Common Start will be joining for April meeting. Also reaching out to Eve Gilmore from Together for Kids. Committee agreed to have both speakers at April meeting and have small agenda to accommodate time for speakers.

Committeewoman Sendrowski discussed current Covid case counts in Worcester, with recent increase in numbers. Discussion of CARES act paid leave that expired December 31, the impact this has on women in Worcester. Liz Sheehan Castro will discuss legislation for more resources for early childhood education during April meeting. Committeewoman Sendrowski to reach out to Kim Dion from Department of Early Education Resource and Referral agency to gain information on statistics for Worcester childcare capacity. A request was put in for sex desegregated data from survey, but this has not come through yet. Committeewoman Sendrowski will put in request on the Greater Worcester Survey website.

Committeewoman Whitney shared that about 48,000 college students will be returning to Worcester in February. She voiced concerns about an increase in Covid cases. Committeewoman Lim shared information about rental assistance programs in Worcester.

www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/ef/cf/efcf35904d1ed31bfd9689a0b865ba01/rental-assistance-program.pdf

Review request for proposals and timelines for 2021 programs, events, activities (Chairperson McCarter) –

- “We Are The Women of Worcester” campaign/calendar – TABLED
- Mentor Program/day – TABLED
- Virtual forum on “The Talk” (Kayanna James) –
 - Committeewoman Wuabu suggested asking what youth want to get from The Talk because youth know their needs. Committeewoman Sendrowski suggested reaching out to the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to explore working together. Committeewoman Borelli suggested including things that can better support families as they have conversations within the family. This forum is meant to act as a reference point for starting the talk within families, and providing resources, including resources for blended families. Committeewoman Sendrowski inquired about the timeline and how to promote The Talk. Committeewoman James discussed timeline of beginning after Women of Consequence in April. Committee members fielded discussion regarding logistics of filming, and the options that are currently available. Final revisions of draft proposal to come in future meeting.

New Business:

Review and approve updated ACSW brochure

Committee reviewed updated ACSW brochure, Committeewoman Lim made a motion to approve the brochure and Committeewoman Borelli seconded to approve the brochure. All approved. www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/c1/34/c1340a97778692708410f442cb8a96f1/acsw-brochure.pdf

Suggestions for future agenda items

- Committeewoman Wuabu intends to have mentor proposal completed and requested to add to next meeting's agenda.
- Committeewoman James suggested coming up with a drive or assistance program to assist individuals experiencing homelessness in Worcester.
- Committeewoman Borelli suggested discussing issues people with disabilities are currently facing with closed day programs and reduced services. This topic is to be added to the Covid family structures discussion.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2021 at 5:45pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm