

City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES– Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 5:45 pm

Video available online: <https://play.champds.com/worcesterma/event/955>

Members Present: Martha Benitez, Kayanna James, Violet Kabaso, Samantha Sendrowski, Tracey Whitney, and Rubby Wuabu

Members Absent: Heather Borelli

Staff: Jayna Turchek

Call to order, introductions to welcome new members

Chairperson Kayanna James called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. Introductions were made and two new Committee members were introduced and welcomed: Martha Benitez and Violet Kabaso

Review of August 3, 2021 meeting minutes

Rubby Wuabu motioned to table August 3, 2021 minutes, seconded by Samantha Sendrowski. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 6-0-0.

New Business

Planning for 2022 Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony:

Proposals for theme/keynote/program/mentor networking:

- Highlight small women business owners and/or women who work with non-profit organizations that mentor young girls.
- Tracey Whitney will do some research on new and first woman CEO of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Massachusetts and bring back for discussion next month
- Committeewomen encouraged to gather biographies for other potential speakers and share for discussion next month
- Agreed to plan for an in-person or hybrid ceremony
- Suggestion to invite speakers from last meeting and their students for a performance/exhibit
- Suggestion to tie into Wonder Women of Worcester posters, create portraits of the winners

Roles for program:

Introduction: Kayanna James

Introduce keynote speaker: Violet Kabuso

Introduce Woman Winner: Tracey Whitney

Introduce Young Woman Winner: Rubby Wuabu

Closing: Samantha Sendrowski

Review of Application Templates

Suggestions-

- Create a check box for those who are interested in continuing their mentorship for present or future awardees
- Add checklist at the end that applicants need to complete so there is no missing information if the application is faxed, dropped off, or mailed in
- Encourage teachers, counselors, and family members of the youth nominees to help them
- Reach out to other organizations or colleges/universities in Worcester willing to partner and fund or fundraise a scholarship for the young woman winner. Violet Kabaso volunteered to follow up.

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to table approval of application until October 5, 2021 meeting. Rubby Wuabu seconded. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 6-0-0.

Mentorship program

Rubby Wuabu: We will roll out the mentorship program with this year's Women of Consequence Awards. We will match awardees and past awardees. Questionnaire to be developed. Committeewomen reviewed updated proposal, timeline and tasks.

Old Business

Debrief August 3rd Worcester Women in Art and Culture conversation

Jayna Turchek: The City of Worcester Ordinance was approved this summer, the petitioner can put forth a request for an honorary street name and the cost would be covered by the petitioner and the cost is roughly \$50. The Committee can also make recommendations and the cost will be covered by the office. Committee women will continue to research, check back in with Deborah Hall and the Worcester Women's Black History Project, and put forth a package to review for a vote. Recommendations should include name(s) of streets and specific section(s) of said streets.

Updated Project Proposals and Timelines for FY2022

Wonder Women of Worcester poster series and children's posters

Tracey Whitney: There will be two events, one will be a call for artists aged 5-17 with a portrait making workshop at the Worcester Pop-up on Friday September 24, 2021, from 6-9 pm. Local artists will be on hand for instruction and guidance. ArtReach is providing materials. Tracey went to ArtReach's afterschool program and spoke to the children and explained the project. All the children in the program are created artwork and their artwork will be posted all around Worcester in the Worcester Windows Downtown exhibit as well as in City Hall for seven months. The Wonder Women of Worcester posters created two years ago will be on display at JMAC/PopUp along with children's portraits. There will be over 100 children's pieces in the exhibit. The opening will be Thursday October 7, 6-8:30pm. Both flyers were shared. Committeewomen are encouraged to attend both events.

Tracey will follow up regarding JMAC's COVID policy. Flyer will be updated so it is clearer. The City, JMAC, and Art Reach will collaborate on publicity/promotion. Committeewomen are encouraged to publicize as well through personal/professional networks.

October and November meeting topics and guests:

Rubby Wuabu: For the Gender-Based Violence Part 1 the subject is Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking, Exploitation. We kept the questions quite broad and included specifics about what each organization is doing to help combat these crimes and issues. We will end with a call in action. November is Domestic Violence and we kept the same plan as October to keep it balanced. Having the recommendations will help us try to make changes in legislation or find ways we can help the community. We are still looking for a community advocate, if anyone has any recommendations please follow up. Suggestions for guests and questions were reviewed. Jayna will send invites to guests along with requests for data and will ask to receive data a week in advance if possible.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm (motioned by Samantha Sendrowski, seconded by Rubby Wuabu, approved on roll call 6-0-0)