

City of Worcester
Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

Virtual Meeting minutes – Tuesday, February 7, 2023

<https://cow.webex.com/cow/j.php?MTID=mec5f5ee5dbf88ebdea1960bf33c1f400>

Meeting number: 2311 267 6845 Password: G2TmSkhjA32
Call in: 415-655-0001 Access Code: 2311 267 6845
Spanish subtitles were made available over WebEx

Attendance:

Members Present: Heather Borelli, Amaris Gonzalez, Jennifer Hernandez, Kayanna James, Marcia Macri, Samantha Sendrowski

Members absent: Esther Boama-Nyarko

Staff: Jayna Turchek

Call to order and Introductions

Chairwoman James called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. She welcomed Amaris Gonzalez a new member of the Committee. Quorum was established on a roll call 6-0-0. The Committee agreed to adjust the agenda to take New Business before the Old Business.

Review and approval of January 10, 2023 meeting minutes

Committeewoman Sendrowski motioned to accept the minutes as distributed for the January 10, 2023 meeting. Committeewoman Macri seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved on a roll call vote of 6-0-0.

New Business

A. Offer from Unsolved: Worcester to assist in replacement plaques and trees

Committeewoman Hernandez reported that she was contacted by Patrick Sargent who runs the Unsolved Podcast. The purpose of the Podcast is to bring more light on solving the murders in the city. In the process of researching for a recent show he found that the Status of Women Advisory Committee in the 1990s planted two trees and placed two plaques in honor of five women who were killed in the 1990's. He could not identify these trees. He wants to purchase a new tree and plaque to honor these women.

Committeewoman Hernandez shared the request with Ms. Turchek and Chairperson James and Ms. Turchek began internal conversations with city departments to determine history and how to proceed. Assistant Commissioner of Parks Robert Antonelli suggested the planting of a new tree could be part of the planned Arbor Day celebration Friday, April 28th at 10:00AM to take place in University Park. The City would supply the tree and the Committee would supply the plaque if it is different from the standard plaque used by the city. The Committee is asked to supply the language for the plaque.

Ms. Sendrowski suggested working with the appropriate city body to document the tree and plaque so this will not happen again.

Next steps include responding to Mr. Antonelli regarding the committee's interest and language for the plaque. It would be helpful to have the plaque ready a month in advance. Since the Committee is not scheduled to meet until early April, a short meeting of the Committee should be called for this one item. Ms. Turchek suggested reaching out to families and friends of the women originally honored to get their suggestions/thoughts.

Ms. Borelli supports this project and suggested updating and include all the women that have lost their lives due to gender based violence.

Motion was made by Ms. James and seconded by Ms. Macri: Accept the offer by the city to be part of the April 28th Abor Day Celebration to honor Worcester women who were murdered with a tree planting and memorial plaque (6-0-0).

Old Business

A. Planning for 2023 Women of Consequence Awards

Review scoring and vote on this year's awardees

Ms. Turchek shared the excel sheets with the scores from all Committeewomen.

Because the awardee has to be present at the ceremony there should be a chosen candidate and an alternate.

Ms. James moved to recommend candidate 4 as the Young Woman of Consequence, and candidate 6 as the alternative. Ms. Sendrowski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call. 6/0/0

Ms. James moved to recommend candidate 42 as the Woman of Consequence, and candidate 52 as the alternative. Ms. Borelli seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call. 6/0/0

The Committee reviewed the run of show and discussed the keynote speaker. Not having heard back from Attorney General Andrea Campbell the Committee selected alternates.

Ms. James moved to reach out to invite: Deborah Hall to speak before the Young Woman of Consequence Awardee and to Nicole Bell as speaker before the Woman of Consequence Awardee. Ms. Sendrowski seconded the motion. All approved by roll call vote (6-0-0).

Committee then agreed to ask speakers to speak for three minutes focusing on the event's theme "Leading Authentically" and then introduce the candidate

Ms. James moved to ask Sensor Kennedy to be the backup speaker. Ms. Borelli seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call. 6/0//0

Flowers – Ms. Turchek will do like last time

Add Assumption Scholarship as part of introduction of Young Woman of Consequence

Ms. Turchek noted areas that need to be done this week.

1. Publicity
2. Connecting the candidates with Committee members and inform them that they have been chosen. Offer to mentor and support to the Young person of Consequence through the process.
3. Headshots and bios *needed* to be secured for program and introductions, once confirmed the selected candidate will be present.

Refreshments: Depending on speaker and interest up to 100 people could attend
Water and Juice
Wrapped cookies with logo of women and Committee name

B. Discussion: Ma Commission on the Status of Women community conversations

The state Commission is hosting a series of community conversations to connect with organizations and individuals who identify as or support LGBTQ+ women ages 25-65. Since the series ends in February there is little time. The Committee requested sending a message indicating continued interest and a little more notice would be helpful. The Committee meets once a month.

Suggestions for next meeting

What is available in Worcester for post-partum depression?

Follow up on Maternal Health area in CHA

What Help is available in the State for senior homeowners?

Adjournment

Ms. Sendrowski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Heather Borelli seconded. All approved by roll call (5/0/0).

Women of Consequence Awards: Wednesday March 8, 2023, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber (3rd flr.)