

Chairperson
Eduardo Rivera



Members:
Harry Danso
Julie Feeney
Jeremy Fontain
Kathleen Gervais
Edward Kwiypup
Edward G. Robinson
Barbara Zerillo

Vice-Chair
Cara Berg Powers

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission**

**Meeting Summary
Monday August 5, 2013, 6pm
City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber, 3rd Floor**

Members Present: Harry Danso, Julie Feeney, Jeremy Fontain, Edward Kwiypup, Eduardo Rivera, Edward G. Robinson, and Barbara Zerillo

Members Absent: Cara Berg Powers, Kathleen Gervais

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Director of the Office of Human Rights and Disabilities

1. Call to Order:

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

2. Introductions:

The Commission members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of July 1st, 2013 Minutes:

Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

4. New Business:

a) Election of Officers:

The Chairperson reviewed the responsibilities of each officer and affirmed that according to prior public notice each nominee would need to be present to run for office.

Nominees for Chairperson: Eduardo Rivera and Edward G. Robinson

Nominees for Vice-Chairperson: Jeremy Fontain, Cara Berg Powers, Barbara Zerillo and Julie Feeney

Nominees for Clerk: Harry Danso, Barbara Zerillo, Julie Feeney

Discussion for Chairperson: Eduardo Rivera and Edward G. Robinson both accepted the nomination to run for Chairperson and stated their reasons why they are good candidates.



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Discussion for Vice-Chairperson: Julie Feeney accepted and then later withdrew her acceptance as a nominee for Vice-Chair. Cara Berg Powers was not present to accept her nomination. Barbara Zerillo and Jeremy Fontain both accepted their nominations to run for Vice-Chairperson and stated their reasons why they are good candidates.

Discussion for Clerk: Julie Feeney accepted her nomination for Secretary and stated her reasons why she is a good candidate.

Roll call vote:

Clerk: Julie Feeney unanimously won by a vote of yes by all present (6 yes- 0 no- 1 abstentia (Julie Feeney)).

Vice-Chairperson:

Barbara: (1:4:2)

Yes votes (Julie Feeney)

No votes (Harry Danso, Edward Kwiyup, Jeremy Fontain and Edward Robinson)

Abstained (Eduardo Rivera and Barbara Zerillo)

Jeremy: (4:1:2)

Yes votes (Harry Danso, Barbara Zerillo, Edward Kwiyup, Edward Robinson)

No votes (Julie Feeney)

Abstained (Eduardo Rviera and Jeremy Fontain)

Chairperson:

Edward G. Robinson: (4:1:2)

Yes votes (Harry Danso, Barbara Zerillo, Julie Feeney and Eduardo Rivera)

No votes (Edward Kwiyup)

Abstained (Jeremy Fontain and Edward G. Robinson)

Eduardo Rivera: (3:3:1)

Yes votes (Edward Kwiyup, Jeremy Fontain, Edward G. Robinson)

No votes (Harry Danso, Barbara Zerillo, Julie Feeney)

Abstained (Eduardo Rivera)

New Officers: Edward G. Robinson, Chairperson; Jeremy Fontain, Vice-Chairperson; and Julie Feeney, Clerk.

5. Old Business:

The Chairperson motioned to take items out of order and it was unanimously agreed.

c) Quarterly Planning

Harry Danso provided copies of a draft calendar to be edited in upcoming meetings.

Barbara Zerillo suggested adding a brief description to each of the events. Julie Feeney suggested adding Latino History month in October along with other significant dates like World Refugee Day June 20th. Jayna Turcek also reminded the Commission of the annual Stand Against Racism event in May.

d) 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech

Harry Danso and Jeremy Fontain both drafted flyers for the event. The Commission unanimously agreed to present Jeremy's flyer to the NAACP for their approval and edits. Jeremy Fontain reported on his outreach activities. Members made suggestions for groups to contact.

a) Mediation Video

The taping of the mediation video is confirmed to take place on August 13th in City Hall Room 401. Jeremy Fontain reported his actors are ready. Eduardo Rivera reported his actors are ready. Jayna Turcek confirmed that the Vietnamese speaking actors are ready as well as the mediators.

b) Annual Report of the Commission

The draft was approved with two edits.

e) LGBTQ education and awareness

The office intern has formatted the resource guide into a brochure. Julie Feeney asked whether there is a resource packet to refer to students who want to create a GSA if their school does not have a GSA. Edward Robinson will find out. The Commission agreed to the brochure with future edits to incorrect contact information.

6. Commissioners' Report:

No reports at this time.

7. Office of Human Rights Director's Report:

Jayna Turcek reported that Catherine Nash has been hired as the new Human Rights Specialist.

8. Next meeting: September 9th, 2013 at City Hall

9. Public Comment

No public comment

10. Adjournment:

On a motion the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

**City of Worcester
Human Rights Commission
Planning Calendar**

1st Quarter (July- September)

1. The Anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech (August 28th, 2013)
2. PRIDE Celebration (September 7, 2013)
3. Mediation Video
4. LGBTQ resource guide

2nd Quarter (October- December 2013)

1. Human Rights Day Celebration

**Monthly Meeting – Monday August 5th, 2013, 6pm
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber (3rd floor)**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of July 1st, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
 - a) Election of Officers
5. Old Business:
 - a) Mediation video
 - b) Annual Report of the Commission
 - c) Quarterly planning
 - d) 50th Anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech (August 28th, 2013)
 - e) LGBTQ education and awareness: Resource Pamphlet
6. Commissioners’ Report
7. Office of Human Rights Director’s Report
8. Location of Next Meeting (September 9th, 2013)
9. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
10. Adjournment

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Human Rights Commission will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact Jayna Turchek at 508-799-1152 or humanrights@worcesterma.go

The Human Rights Commission is dedicated to its service of safeguarding the civil liberties of all persons who live or work in Worcester. May the public kindly take notice to respect the order and decorum of the meeting. Please silence all cell phones and similar electronic devices. Refrain from speaking on cell phones or to others until recognized by the Chair that you have the floor.