

City of Worcester Advisory Committee on the Status of Women

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES– Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 5:45 pm

Video available online: <https://play.champds.com/worcesterma/event/1131>

Members Present: Kayanna James, Samantha Sendrowski, Martha Benitez, Márcia Macri, Tracey Whitney, and Rubby Wuabu

Members Absent: Heather Borelli

Staff: Jayna Turcek

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm. The Chairperson welcomed members of the commission and those present, and a roll call was taken that established a quorum.

Chairperson James announced that the new agenda has been distributed and asked if anything needs to be revised. The agenda was accepted as distributed.

2. Review and approval of December 7, 2021 meeting minutes

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to accept the minutes as written for the December 7, 2021 meeting. Tracey Whitney seconded. Minutes unanimously passed on a roll call vote 6-0-0.

3. Old Business

Suggestions for Committee recommendations from gender based violence discussions

Committee plans to submit report to City Manager and City Council with specific recommendations and requests for more information:

- Change the name of the committee for inclusivity- ex. Gender Equity Committee
- Dedicated office for gender equity
- Request a list of municipal funding that addresses gender based violence and inequities in general
- Review gender based violence education/training in the city and on college campuses
- Promote/fund classes/trainings for gender based violence for perpetrators and victims
- Speak to Legislators and support upcoming legislation

Confirm keynote speaker and theme for Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony

Switch from a keynote speaker to panelists.

Suggested panelists (Not Finalized):

- Ariel Lim- Mother and Housing Program Coordinator for the City of Worcester (former Committeewoman)
- Connie Askin- CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & Metrowest, Inc.
- Carolyn Jackson- CEO of St. Vincent Hospital
- Etel Haxhiaj- Director Public Education and Advocacy; District 5 City Councilor
- Echo Louissaint- Director of Recruiting for Permanent Placement/Direct Hire
- Deborah Hall- CEO of YWCA
- Diane McKee- Chairperson Department of Family Medicine and Community Health UMASS
- Monica Escobar Lowell- Vice-President for Community Benefits UMASS
- Tiffany Moore- OBGYN Department Chairperson UMASS
- Child care department panelist TBA
- Technological space panelist TBA
- St. Vincent Hospital nurse

Theme:

- Resiliency and Re-emergence During Post-Covid- Leading Through the Change

Format for adapted keynote/presentation:

- Pre-recorded presentation that includes responses to questions posed of the speakers in collage form.

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to make event virtual. Kayanna James seconded. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 6-0-0.

(Kayanna James exited the meeting at 7:02 pm, Samantha Sendrowski continued facilitation of the meeting).

Update on mentorship program as part of Women of Consequence Awards Ceremony

Rubby Wuabu will send out a draft email to send to past award recipients that can be edited by committee members to find out if they would like to participate in the mentorship program.

Post event, committee will discuss different avenues to get more nominees.

4. New Business

Planning for spring investigations on economic status of women (April/May)

Márcia Macri volunteered to lead on the April meeting with Martha Benitez as a co-lead. April's meeting will be about city contracts and women-owned businesses. Tracey Whitney will lead on the May meeting with Samantha Sendrowski and Márcia Macri as co-leads. May's meeting will discuss city employment and opportunities.

Worcester Tercentennial Discussion

Márcia Macri suggested partnering with the Worcester Historical Museum and other locations, to rotate Wonder Women of Worcester posters in buildings around Worcester. Committee will put together a presentation to present to potential hosts in Worcester.

Samantha Sendrowski motioned to request an audit of all public artwork in the City. Tracey Whitney seconded. Motion unanimously passed on a roll call vote 5-0-0.

5. Adjournment (Next meeting is Tuesday February 1, 2022)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 pm