

**Chairperson**  
Edward G. Robinson

**Vice-Chair**  
Jeremy Fontain

**Clerk**  
Julie Feeney



**City of Worcester  
Human Rights Commission**

**Members:**  
Cara Berg Powers  
Harry Danso  
Kathleen Gervais  
Edward Kwiypup  
Eduardo Rivera  
Barbara Zerillo

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Julie Feeney, Jeremy Fontain, Carla Berg Powers, Eduardo Rivera, Edward G. Robinson, and Barbara Zerillo

**Members Absent:** Harry Danso, Kathleen Gervais, Edward Kwiypup

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

**Community Participant:** Joan Webster, Center for Nonviolent Solutions Community Mediations Services

**1. Call to Order:**

There being a quorum the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:14pm.

**2. Introductions:**

The Commission members introduced themselves.

**3. Approval of September 9, 2013 meeting minutes:**

Commissioner Eduardo Rivera asked for clarification about the reference in the minutes to use the term People of Color instead of Minorities in the Commission's communications. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes as written.

**4. New Business:**

**a) Youth Essay Contest and Postcard Display**

- i.** Commissioner Berg Powers asked for a vote to revise and use an older flyer for the upcoming Youth Essay and Poster contest in order to move forward. The Commission voted to approve the draft of the old promotion material and for Commissioner Berg Powers to work with Director Turчек to promote.

**b) National Transgender Remembrance Day**

- ii.** The Commission spoke of the possibility of requesting a proclamation to be read by the City Council on November 19th 2013 (one day before National Transgender Remembrance Day November 20th, 2013). The



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AIDS Coalition of Worcester is willing to sponsor the proclamation. Commissioner Edward G. Robinson will put the Worcester AIDS in Coalition in touch with Director Turchek to facilitate the request.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Mediation Video**

Commissioner Fountain reported that he has been in contact with Joan Webster from the Center for Nonviolent Solutions about the film premier and read aloud a proposed agenda. The proposed agenda was that the former chair of the HRC would welcome participants, there would be further comments by people from the Center, the Vietnamese video would be shown followed by a brief Question and Answer session, the video in Spanish would be shown followed by a brief question and answer and then the English video. Commissioner Fountain reported that there is room in the proposed agenda for changes the day of the event.

The Commissioners spoke about the lack of subtitles in the Spanish speaking video and various commissioners offered to assist with subtitles. Commissioner Feeney proposed having a transcript of the video for non-Spanish speakers. It was suggested that there be a brief introduction before each video telling participants what to expect and that the HRC would attempt to borrow devices for simultaneous translation (there is a limited number available).

The Commission also spoke with Joan from the Center as to the capacity of the Center for training and the goals of the meeting. The Center does not currently have financial resources to provide a training in the near future as trainings are very expensive. The estimated training cost would be about \$500/person which is less than other places. The Center as of now does not have a plan about when they could offer their next training. It was decided to use the event to promote the mediation services that the Center offers and to find out if people from the community would be interested in any future training.

The Commission spoke about the use of the Cinema 320 space at Clark University for the event as the Traina Center charges a fee for use. Commissioner Zerillo presented ideas for snacks to have the night of the event and she will work Director Turchek to get them ordered. The Commissioners spoke about the estimated number of participants and then decided that each Commissioner would be asked to invite 5 people or organizations to the event and to email Director Turchek by Friday with the list of people that they would invite.

**b. This month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** The City hosted the Empty Space at the Table display and the YWCA has the Purple Purse Project to educate about domestic violence.

**c. Commissioners' Reports**

Carla Berg Powers reported about the Raise Up MA Campaign which is a ballot question to promote raising the minimum wage and the issue of paid sick leave. She said that Neighbor to Neighbor and Unite Here are good contacts to find out more. Edward G. Robinson attended a Recovery Day event at the Hanover Theater and spoke about the idea that people that felt comfortable should share their recovery stories in order to appear in statistics and help organizations secure additional funding with added numbers. Commissioner Robinson also attended a meeting of the Disability Commission and Elder Affairs Commission.

**d. Neighborhood Meetings**

The Commissioners' spoke about holding meetings in different neighborhood settings. Director Turchek suggested that the commissioners' think strategically about when to have a meeting in a neighborhood in order to use the meetings to be about specific neighborhood interests. It was suggested that the next meeting be in the Main South Community Development Corporation as it is one day before the Mediation Film Premier

**e. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**f. Adjournment**

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (October- December 2013)**

1. Human Rights Day Celebration – Essay & Poster Contest
2. Mediation video community screening
3. Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20<sup>th</sup>)
4. Domestic Violence Awareness (October)

**Monthly Meeting – Monday October 7th, 2013, 6pm  
Worcester City Hall, Esther Howland Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. New Business:
  - a) Youth Essay and Poster Contest
  - b) Transgender Day of Remembrance
5. Old Business:
  - a) Mediation video premier/community event
  - b) Domestic Violence Awareness Month
6. Commissioners' Reports
7. Location of Next Meeting (November 4th, 2013)
8. Public Comment (3 minutes per individual)
9. Adjournment

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