

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN
REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Claudia Werman Conner, Chair; Sharon Baanante; Ivonne Zucco; Kristina Testa-Buzzee; Jasmine Prezzie

STAFF: Michelle Woods Matthews

OTHERS: Margaret Watt; Marissa Mangone

Call to Order

Ms. Connor called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Connor said he minutes of the last meeting can not be approved, as they were not posted to the website.

Public Comment

Diane Lurecetta was there. She commented on 4c & 5b and would like to work with this commission to find creative ways to bring more women on the Boards & Commissions within the City.

Ms. Connor then made comments about how the committee does track the participation of women on Boards & Commissions. Progress has been made.

New Business

- (a) Presentation and discussion led by Margaret Watt, the Prevention Director at Positive Directions & Counseling, Shaaron Sinvilcin, the Director of Initiative at Norwalk ACTS and Marissa Mangone, Director, Business Development at Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center on the Importance of mental health and community connectedness

Presentation by Ms. Watt and Ms. Mangone. Introduction was given by Ms. Matthews.

Ms. Watt spoke about her agency Positive Directions – counseling and substance abuse. She also runs the Norwalk Partnership, a grant focused on youth. They perform youth surveys every two years.

Mental health in youth is going in the right direction and for adults are more depressed. They provided at PH4 tool.

They are also part of ACTS (both Ms. Watt and Ms. Mangone belong to this). The grant they got was \$125K for 5 years and \$15K from state.

Services provided isn't enough.

Ms. Mangone provided her introduction. She does most work for youth at Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center.

Ms. Watt shared a powerpoint presentation and spoke about mental health in our area. Issues were brought up in Q&A resources for the community and with marijuana being legal in the state of Connecticut. They must reach the parents.

b) Community Outreach and Civic Engagement Committee

No update for tonight's meeting.

c) Diversification of Boards of Commissions Committee

Updates on the Norwalk Awards ceremony and nominations process

Something on March 11th and keep it low key. December 22nd nominations will open and proceeded to provide the timeline and the criteria. Nominations are open to the public.

Onboarding document

The onboarding document is 95% done. Then will work with City to finalize the document.

Old Business

a) Community outreach and Civic Engagement Committee

None

b) Diversification of Boards of Commissions Committee

Monthly Board and Commission vacancy announcement reminder

Common Council to look at Jennifer Edwards for approval for committee. There is then one opening open.

Motion to Adjourn

**** MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY SHARON BAANATE**

**** MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JASMINE PREZZIE**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Bromark
Telesco Secretarial Services