

Human Rights Commission Committee on Urgent Issues, Underserved Needs, and Accessibility

Monday, March 17th at 2:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Liz Aeschlimann called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present were Committee Members Liz Aeschlimann, Susan Musinsky, Gabriel Camacho, and Elizabeth Brusie. Also present were City Staff Doug Newton and Jenna Bancroft.

3. Election of Chair of Committee

Liz Aeschlimann made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Brusie, that Gabriel Camacho be appointed Chair. The motion passed four to zero.

4. Discussion

- a. Goals 3 and 5 of Human Rights Commission Needs Assessment Report: Urgent Issues, Underserved Needs, and Commission Accessibility to the Public

The Committee offered Watertown's Human Services Director Jenna Bancroft the opportunity to share some of what her department is working on and how it can connect to the Commission's work. This included work on housing insecurity. The Committee also read through the ordinance which establishes the Human Rights Commission as a city body.

- b. Identify and Prioritize Action Steps

The Committee identified the following priority issues: immigrant communities, housing, SPED/discrimination in schools, as well as disability voice and access. The Committee considered key leverage points in each issue such as connections with city agencies and where work is already being done by city staff.

- c. Timeline for Priority Action Steps

The Committee will report on its discussion at the full Human Rights Commission meeting on April 13th. Committee members encouraged one other to familiarize themselves with the issues discussed as much as possible.

5. Public Comment

No member of the public offered comment.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.