

City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2014

The next BCSW meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014, 5:30pm. BCSW meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Commissioners present: Debra Vance, Toby Strout, Alexa Lopez, Beth Friedman-Kirk, and Jacqueline Fernette

Monroe County Women's Commission representative present: Shirley Fitzgibbons

Staff present: Sue Owens, Community & Family Resources

Community volunteer present: Ashley Hazelrig

Public Present: Regina Moore and Charlotte Zietlow

1. Call to order

Vance: called order at 5:33

2. Request for Additional Agenda Items

Discussion of Susan B. Anthony Plaque

3. Approval of May Minutes

Corrections, as follows:

Kohn should be Cohn (item 6 new business right above C)

Spelling errors will be submitted to Owens and turned over to the recorder

Beth moved and Alexa seconded to approve agenda. Motion passes motion with all in favor.

4. Old Business

A. Susan B Anthony Plaque

Susan B plaque is down for renovation of the building, but the new business is open and running. Encourage the commission to have a ceremony on Aug 26th (Women's Equality Day) or 19th, (TN ratifies amendment) to put the plaque back up. Great opportunity to get people to apply for commission vacancy and raise awareness of the commission. Regina will volunteer a lemonade stand.

Discussion regarding where the plaque will be placed and whether the current business is aware as well as the logistics of actually hanging the plaque..

Discussion regarding marketing and holding the event with limited time before proposed dates.

Beth, Shirley and Toby volunteered to establish a committee to work on the event.

Discussion regarding the original unveiling. The "raging grannies" performed and a reception followed the event. Over fifty in attendance. Cathi and Charlotte Zietlow made remarks. May have been too long/warm. No reception necessary this time, but sidewalk event.

B. Women's History Month Luncheon- March 25, 2015

The minutes are self-explanatory. Regarding the meeting itself, there is no new news. Sue confirmed that the contract has been signed.

C. Monroe County Women's Commission Report

Shirley provided an update on the last Monroe County Women's Commission meeting. No quorum last month. Next area of focus is sexual assault prevention- Debbie Herbenick is the project advisor for a BHSN senior. The student may want to take the programs into the community as part of the project. Focus on student sexual assault in college. Might be useful to include that in the equation and help make the transition from HS to Univ. This high school student used to be Regina Moore's intern. This project was born from worries about prom night safety. The student will be coming to the meetings to give more information.

Discussion about Middle Way House's work, i.e. is the focus on intimate partner or stranger assault. Primarily intimate partner, but there is a grant to work with community.

It was suggested that the IU Orientation presentation has an edgy and powerful musical on "consent" and that it might be interesting to borrow the program for the community.

Discussion regarding who from BCSW will serve as the rep at the MCWC during the next three meetings. Jacqueline volunteered to cover August, September and October. The meetings are the second Friday from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. It was noted that BCSW did not have a representative at the meetings in June and July.

D. Raising the Minimum Wage

Beth and Cathi plan to take the proposal to the City Council. There are no plans at this time to contact the U.S. Senators Coats and Donnelly. The MCWC did contact Congressman Young, however no real results from that effort.

E. Discuss process for getting a High School girl(s) as adjunct member(s) of the BCSW

Discussion regarding how this can happen. It was suggested that BHSN staff that know interested students includes Kathy Loser, Marcus Debro, Betty Anderson, and Andrea Mobley. We need a subcommittee to look into the process including how to propose legislation change required to add members to the BCSW.

F. Discuss who will be the next chair of the BCSW (or options to function without a Chair)

Discussion regarding who might replace Cathi as Chair of the BCSW. Cathi has not proposed a date to step down.

G. Discuss who will be the next chair of the Women's History Month Luncheon (need to start meeting in September/October timeframe)

Discussion regarding who might replace Debra as chair of WHM Luncheon Chair.

It was suggested that the next chair should be someone who has been on the committee and that the chair must be a member of the BCSW. Afternoon meetings were set up for convenience last time, but that could change. October should be first meeting and we need new chair before November. Jacqueline volunteered to Chair and Debra agreed to co-chair with her. It would be preferable to have more than two BCSW representatives on the WHM Luncheon Committee. Further discussion at the September meeting.

5. New Business

New volunteer secretary thanks to Jacqueline and Nichole. Introductions.

6. Public Input

Charlotte Zietlow: Commission is 40 years old. Created locally to determine the economic and financial status of women in Bloomington. No one else was focused on the topic or women and economic development and other areas. We are back at the economic development need. Today, many women and others are having a difficult time obtaining sufficient employment. Minimum wage is a part, but not the whole problem. Is now a time to make economic development of women a more urgent concern in the community? Urges Commission to go back to original goals and maybe form a coalition with other boards and commissions to create a narrative for how women and people are living in our community (based on the work of Francis Perkins). Focus on issues impacting single parent families, etc. There are other organizations that could participate in such a movement, but the BCSW is the most creative organization to approach.

Beth and Alexa are on the committee on economic development and employment. The commission did a survey, not as broad as what you're talking about, but we lacked resources. With a coalition, this project could be done. The committee would be glad to contribute.

This will go to the MCWC as well. Until we have some real world stories, we will not be able to make the impact we need. Economic development is often focused on higher level jobs.

Alexa and Beth will get back to Charlotte, and bring back a report to the commission.

Discussion regarding combining the 40 year anniversary of BCSW with the Susan B. Anthony/Women's Equality event.

Mail Report - None

7. **Adjournment** – Debra adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ashley Hazelrig