

|City of Bloomington, IN

March 2017 CSW Minutes

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Thursday, March 2, 2017 5:30PM

McCloskey Room, Suite 135

City Hall

401 N. Morton Street Bloomington, IN

Commissioners Present: Jacqueline Fernette, Beth Friedman Kirk, Penny Githens, Ashley Hazelrig, Debby Herbenick, Regina Moore, Amanda Stephens

Commissioners Absent: None

High School Adjunct Members Present: Emma Cannon, Bloomington North

Community Commissioner Present: Monica Dignam

Staff Liaison Present: Sue Owens

Community Volunteer Recorder Present: Donna Goings

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Debby at 5:36pm.

Addition to Agenda: Three items were added to the agenda:

- 1) ways to honor Toby
- 2) update on editorial by Amanda
- c) working with high school liaisons

Approval of Minutes: Corrections were sited. Beth moved to accept the minutes as corected and Penny seconded.

Discussion ensued about whether high school reps should be included in the round robin emails that occur between meetings. Regina indicated other commissions add members who are not official. Jacqueline suggested adding as agenda item. Sue reminded the group that its best to have conversations at regular monthly meetings vs. electronically and that votes can't be conducted electronically. Group consensus was to ask them if they would like to be included in the email conversations.

Old Business- A. WHM Lunch - Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Jacqueline reported that the ticket sales yesterday was about 170. An article has not yet appeared in the paper, because the Herald-Times wants to do a bigger story and will do it closer to the event. Sue will look into getting something in H-T “Out and About” column asap. The planning group decided to make contacts with school corporations, community calendars on radio, etc. Regina suggested putting it on the community access TV calendar and volunteered to follow through with doing so. Sponsorships close tomorrow at 5:00. Submissions can still be made but won’t be in the program. Invitations were in mailboxes 2 weeks ago. Doors open at 11:15 and the event starts at noon at the convention center. Usually 450 people attend. Everyone is encouraged to put out an invite on Facebook. An area of unpredictability is the number of sponsored seats to give out such as to Girl Scouts. About ½ of sponsorships come from commission members, and members are encouraged to go ahead and make purchases. A topic to explore for the future is whether the cost of tickets or at least a portion is tax deductible.

The planning commission and Mayor are working to honor Toby Strout by a “Toby Strout Day” proclamation. Sue suggested the idea of renaming the Lifetime Contribution award after Toby and renaming it the Toby Strout Award. The committee didn’t want to add another award but liked the idea of renaming a current award and perhaps awarding it to her posthumously. Toby didn’t want the award so perhaps giving it to her would be a dishonor. Commissioners agreed with renaming the award. When Toby turned 60, there was a Toby Strout day in her honor. The mayor could say there would not be a recipient for the award this year but from now on it would be known as the Toby Strout award. There would be questions as to why it was not given to Toby. Both the county and city could declare a day for Toby. Monica will pursue getting it on the agenda for the county. Penny moved the award be renamed the Tony Strout Lifetime Contribution Award; Regina seconded, and motion approved. The group also wants a proclamation of Tony Strout day, and Sue will send the proclamation to everyone.

Old Business-B. WLD Event - Thursday, March 30, 2017

Beth reported Yael Ksander will be panel moderator and Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer will accept the award. Amanda asked about the Facebook event page. Sue clarified a policy change in City regarding social media—the CFRD Director wants staff to host and regulate media pages. The old event page is deactivated and one specific for this year’s event is up and can be shared and people can be invited to the page. Regina asked about invitations—Sue said they are available by electronic file.

Amanda’s letter was published in both the Indianapolis Star and the Herald-Times. Commissioners have heard positive things from the community. Amanda thanked everyone for their feedback and will bring a copy to next meeting. The commissioner thanked Amanda and congratulated her on publication of the letter.

Report from Commissioners—Monroe County Women’s Commission

Monica discussed the two letters that the county commission and city commission women groups had decided to send jointly—one to the state health department and one to the public schools. Lara Weaver is still planning to do that. The city commission decided to not send one to the schools after further follow-up. The group is still willing to sign a joint letter to the state health department. Regina talked about Equality Day. Monica clarified her role. Regina is a voting member of the County Commission. Monica asked who the appropriate person was for the county commission chair to contact about the proclamation of Tony Strout day—Debby is the contact.

Check-In from High School Liaisons

Emma shared things have been calm. She is making plans for sexual assault awareness month by creating a video campaign. There will be 6 videos that will allow people to share stories, to know legal rights, etc. It will be a campaign of information. She is doing it by herself without the assistance of student council. She will contact a person to do a workshop on self-defense and perhaps a speaker from the school of public health. The commission suggested Debby as a speaker. Another idea was to have a speaker about the legal rights of sexual assault survivors—Amanda was suggested as a resource for this. The commissioners encouraged Emma to keep going with her plans, and more interest would probably follow.

New Business—A. Liaison Report

New Business—B. Equal Pay Day

Penny reported. Emma was asked and agreed to be on the panel. The panel includes an attorney from Indianapolis who does labor law, Lynn Dugan on labor studies, Linda Lawson—state representative, and someone from Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Regina is working on a design for promotion. The date is April 2 with doors opening at 1:30 and the program at 2:00. There will be a wheel of chance used to ask labor questions. Donations will be requested for cupcakes. Men will be charged more than women. There will be cartoons about equal pay on monitors and a handout with some references and facts. Volunteers are asked to be there at 1:15. Ashley and Amanda are volunteering. One idea under consideration is having a youth member sell cupcakes and use as fund-raiser.

The actual Equal Pay Day is April 4 and Sue will do a press release. Monica will check with county. Commission thought it would be best to do a joint release rather than two separate ones. Jacqueline shared article from paper from 40 year ago event—sadly same as today.

Beth announced that Amrita Myers in gender studies is having an event on March 21 from 6-8 about violence against women of color. The commission can have a table if we wish. The deadline is Monday. Beth will try to get a flyer and will send info to Monica

New Business—Permanent seat from Middle Way House

Debby brought up the question about a permanent seat on the Commission from Middle Way House. Should a request be made to the mayor now with the needs related to changes in membership of the Commission? Sue indicated there needs to be clarification about an additional seat or if one of the seats is to be a permanent seat. Discussion ensued about Middle Way House having a permanent seat when there are so many other similar agencies/groups. Perhaps it would be better to ask that the next commissioner be from Middle Way House. Another perspective is that the most basic right of women is to survive and that is the role of Middle Way House. Regina shared that several years ago there was a rep from Girl Scouts so a precedent has been established. The mayor is going to do a complete assessment of all commissions, so perhaps we could ask the mayor about having a conversation about membership. We could ask Middle Way House to have someone come to be involved until the assessment is made and that would give us time. Debby will follow up with Middle Way House. We could also ask Middle Way who might be a good person to suggest to mayor. There was a previous idea about making the commission 11 members by adding a seat from Middle Way and a seat from Girls, Inc., but the process was so involved that the idea was dropped. The high school liaisons were added at that time.

The consensus was to recruit people for the Commission from specific places. There are currently two openings—a council and a mayor appointment

New Business—Acknowledging Outgoing Members

Debby will write a letter to Toby's family about her time on the commission. Outgoing members will be acknowledged at the luncheon.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Goings