

City of Bloomington, IN

July 5, 2018 CSW Minutes

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Thursday July 5, 2018 5:30PM

McCloskey Room, Suite 135

City Hall

401 N. Morton Street Bloomington, IN

Commissioners Present: Nana Amoah-Ramey, Ashley Hazelrig, Debby Herbenick, Sylvia Martinez, Maqube Reese, Lynne Shifriss, Amy Stark

Commissioners Absent: Landry Culp, Jacqueline Fernette

County Commissioner Present: Monica Dignam

High School Liaison Absent: Lisi Skiba, Bloomington North

Staff Liaison Present: Sue Owens

Community Volunteer Recorder Present: Donna Goings

Community Guests present: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Sylvia at 5:32P.M.

Additions to Agenda: None

John Clower—Indiana's bias-crime reporting law and new community coalition

Indiana has a bias crime reporting law and every police agency is supposed to report any such crimes, using same format as FBI reporting. The police send their reports to Indiana state police, where they are aggregated and then reported to FBI. Gender identity was not specifically stated in the law. Bloomington had no gender bias crimes reported from 2013-2017. This seems improbable. A coalition is being developed by John Clower to do an in depth study—MCWC, MCNCAAP, Monroe County Religious Leaders, and a variety of other groups are joining the coalition. Monroe County has reported no bias crimes based on any of the criteria at all. Neighboring counties have not been in compliance with any reports at all. Conversation with some reporters has indicated there is a sense that there really isn't any bias. John would like this group to consider joining the coalition. The Bloomington police have been excellent pacesetters

in compliance. Two reasons are it's easy to comply and it's the right thing to do. Issues with the current law include no penalty for noncompliance and no required training for knowing how to report. The first action of the coalition is a letter to Indiana Public Media asking for the media on campus to follow through with an investigation of why such poor compliance.

Maqube asked the question about working with other groups already doing such investigating (such as a coalition in Indy). John's perspective is that communities need to own their problem and believes enhanced reporting helps communities to do that. CSW doesn't have a specific timeframe for becoming part of the coalition. Debby suggested sending the letter also to a couple of other organizations (IDS, e.g.) and perhaps to the mayor/police chief in terms of the importance of training. John believes strongly that citizen journalists are going to be a key factor. He is trying to get hold of the training for the police academies in the area to explore its adequacy. John indicated the criteria for what a bias crime is needs to be researched and made known and perhaps assistance given to help. Debby asked about a women's law organization or others who might have the expertise for what the wording of such criteria should be. Clarifying the expectation for our role on the coalition is to join our moral pressure with the other groups and right now the main thing is signing the letter. The group discussed what the role and responsibilities of the CSW would actually be in terms of the coalition.

Action Items:

- Debby moved that the group sign the letter from the coalition to media to investigate. Amy seconded. Motion approved.
- Sue will send the Commission's agreement to sign the letter to John and will also indicate the Commission isn't committing to any other action at this point.

Approval of Minutes: The June minutes were reviewed.

Action Items:

- Maqube moved to approve minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. WHM Lunch—March 20, 2019

(no report)

B. WLD Event

(no report)

C. Multi-Commission Bicentennial Contest

The date was extended for entries. Seven submissions have been entered, and nine are required.

D. Pay Equity Event—August 26, 2018

(no report)

E. Black Girls Discussion

Action plans are being developed.

Report from Monroe County Women's Commission:

Monica reported the coding week for girls was successful. Eleven girls attended. The County Commission is also working with John Clower.

Report from High School Liaison: (no report)

Amy is aware of some girls who might be interested.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liaison Report (no report)

B. Leadership Scholarship Request

Ashley led a discussion about an applicant who has requested \$500 assistance for a leadership program. Her community project would focus on women of color.

Action Item:

- o Debby moved to award Kyra Richardson \$400. Lynne seconded. Motion passed.

C. BCSW/MCWC Joint Column to Editor on status of women

Monica shared some stats and Lynne and she will write and will include a blurb about pay equity. Debby asked for clarification of the goal of the column—what is the call to action or action step? Discussion ensued.

D. BCSW Retreat

Action Item:

- o Retreat is August 2 from 5:30-7:30.

E. Tampon Tax

Maqube defined tampon tax as a term used to tax feminine hygiene products. She suggested a pilot program to collect such products and reach out to local agencies to share.

Action steps would be to bring products to Commission events and to ask for donations. The end goal is to write a petition for Indiana to remove the tax. Amy indicated the United Way agencies meet monthly and would be a good place to increase awareness of the resource. Monica indicated it would also be a good topic for legislative day for MCWC.

Public Input—none

Adjournment

Ashley moved to adjourn meeting at 6:46PM and Amy seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Goings
Community Volunteer Recorder