

## MEETING MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, September 1, 2016

**The next BCSW meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2016, 5:30pm. BCSW meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend.**

**Commissioners Present:** Beth Freidman-Kirk, Penny Githens, Cathi Crabtree, Debby Herbenick, Debra Vance, Toby Strout, Jacqueline Fernetto, Regina Moore

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**County Commissioner Present:** Debby Herbenick

**Staff Present:** Sue Owens, Community and Family Resources Department

**Public Present:** Cornelius Wright and Janet Kamau Bell, Commission on the Status of Black Males

**Community Volunteer Present:** Ashley Hazelrig

1. Call to order  
5:34 by Debby
2. Discussion – Cornelius Wright – Commission on the Status of Black Males  
Cornelius gives some back up story by letting the Commission know about an article in the HT from December 2015 stating that victim of rape identified the assailant as a black male. The police later stated that it was false report. The Commission on the Status of Black Males has a concern that these false reports of rape make reporting the actual instance of rape more difficult. The false reports (which are a misdemeanor) should also be addressed. Janet adds that it is really horrible when one oppressed group oppresses another. If the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on the Status of Black Males came out with a group statement regarding these accusations, it would promote a model city. Toby states that we could put together educational piece about race and rape. Regina asks what the timing of the statement would be for publishing. Cornelius says he has no timeline. Toby states the reports of rape from IU students have gone down this enrollment year. Toby and Cathi volunteered to write a piece. There is a commission member from the Commission on the Status of Black Males (William Morrison) who would be willing to coauthor the editorial. Debby state that there could be a campus event in conjunction.
3. Request for Additional Agenda Items  
No Additions
4. Approval of Minutes – July (no quorum in August)
5. Old Business
  - A. WHM Lunch and WLD Event  
-date for 2017 WHM Lunch is Wednesday, March 22, 2017  
Cathi says the keynote speaker committee is looking at a few candidates. Regina will be reaching out to a top candidate to check for availability. Debby wants to know the timeline for speaker selection. Cathi hopes to have a recommendation or three by mid-October when the luncheon committee meets. Regina inquired about a speaker sponsorship in the event we want to ask someone to travel from out of state. Cathi would like a co-chair for WLD and would begin meeting in November.
  - B. Monroe County Women's Commission Report (Debby)  
No report. The County Commission wants to push a group meeting with the city Commission back a month.
  - C. High School Liaison check-in

Regina reports. She has contacted North and South High School. Both school contacts have students who would be interested. Regina received a message from Grace Birch who is senior at South and is very interested, but wondering if there is something she needs to prepare for the meeting. Regina would like to have her possibly come to the next meeting to sit in and see how the meetings go

- New Business

- A. Local issues related to violence against women

- Cathi reports that the event will be moved to the spring due to a lack of funding at this time.

- B. Liaison Report

- A decision has been made by the Mayor's office regarding the vacancy on the commission, but the letter has not been sent out. She will follow up.

- C. Collaboration with Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs – Voter Literacy Event

- Regina says Elyssa has voiced interest in the issue and was hoping to get involved somehow. Debby says there is no organized plan from this commission at this time to move forward with this, but if Elyssa comes to a meeting, she could be added to the October agenda.

- D. Future Planning

- Debby says there was a survey responded to by 6 peoples. We were pretty spread out. But needs of and resources and community education we the two biggest. Most common was helping to plan community events and communication with city council members. We can begin work on communication with city council members by sending a representative to meeting or even just reviewing the agendas.

- E. Leadership Scholarship Initiative

- American Public Health application. We discussed last time that we may want to revise the language to emphasize the leadership in women's issues. Because of that conversation, we may want to give this application a closer look as a group. Debby shares Allison's statement. Beth voices that she would have liked a mention of gender equality. We may be out of funds if we receive receipts from an applicant we approved in January for the money. The group agrees that we should reach back out and give a September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for receipts from that scholarship recipient to award the funds or make decisions on open applications. In order to consider this application, we will need more information. Cathi motions we send that to the applicant, Beth seconds. All in favor

- F. NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet - Souvenir Booklet Advertisement

- Debra Vance requests \$85 advertisement. This year's theme is "Our Lives Matter. Our Votes Count". The event will be held on November 12th at the Bloomington Convention Center. Artwork is due October 28<sup>th</sup>. All vote in favor of the half page ad.

- Public Input

- None

- Adjournment

- 6:42 adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley R Hazelrig