

City of Bloomington, IN

December 2016 CSW Minutes

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Thursday, December 1, 2016, 5:30pm

McCloskey Room, Suite 135

City Hall

401 N. Morton Street Bloomington, IN

Commissioners Present: Cathi Crabtree, Jacqueline Fernetto, Penny Githens, Ashley Hazelrig, Debby Herbenick, Beth Friedman Kirk, Kristi McCann, Regina Moore

Commissioner Absent: Toby Strout

High School Adjunct Members Present: Grace Bertsch, Bloomington South; Emma Cannon, Bloomington North

Staff Liaison Present: Sue Owens

Guests Present: Members of Monroe County Women's Commission—Nancy White, Shirley Fitzgibbons, Amanda Barge, Liz Feitl, Monica Dignam. Other Guests: Gail Londergan, Amanda Stephens

Community Volunteer Recorder Present: Donna Goings

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Debby. Agenda item 5b—report from Monroe Women's Commission—was moved to top of agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September, 2016 were reviewed. Cathi moved to accept, Kristi seconded, motion passed. The minutes of October, 2016, were reviewed. Jacqueline moved to accept, Kristi seconded, motion passed.

Report from Monroe County Women's Commission: The members of the commission introduced themselves. The commission members are appointed either by the Monroe County Council or the Monroe County Commissioners and are accountable to both groups.

- Chairperson Nancy White shared that the County Commission wants to collaborate with the City Commission. The group's mission is to educate. The county commission has focused on women's health the last three years. They are collecting data to know what women are thinking—one example is a survey at the county fair. They are exploring collaboration at the state level.
- Shirley Fitzgibbon described a community health survey done in 2015 in five counties. Monroe County data is being synthesized through IU. Three subgroups have been identified—substance abuse and mental health, chronic disease, and basic needs.

Members of the county commission are serving on task forces related to the survey. A lot of focus is being placed on substance abuse. The three subgroups will develop a three year plan with specific actions.

- Carol McCord described a third idea of a possible curriculum for sex education, etc. for Monroe County Schools. This would be an opportunity to collaborate with the Monroe County Health group. There is a study online on the county web site.
- The County Commission meets the 2nd Friday at 1:30 in the third-floor conference room. All are welcome and feel free to bring lunch.
- Both the City Commission and the County Commission would each like to have reps from the other group come to their meetings.
- The county commission has 2 vacancies now—member terms are one year only.
- Several members wanted to have discussion now about possible ideas for collaboration. (See below.)

Old Business--WHM Luncheon

Jacqueline reported: A meeting has been held with the Buskirk Chumley Theater Box Office (BCT) to work through recommendations from last year. We need someone from BCT to staff the will call table. The fee is \$100. Cathi moved to do this, Beth seconded, motion passed. There was a question about having a volunteer instead, but that is not easily done.

Jacqueline led a discussion about soliciting more sponsors for the luncheon. Decisions need to be made about how many more sponsors and who will do what to obtain them. Waiting until the January meeting may be too late. A directory of minority businesses and information related to potential sponsors was distributed. Sue distributed planning packets with last year's program and power point as examples to show prospective sponsors. A letter with the information about sponsorship was sent to the planning committee. Discussion ensued about how to proceed. Sue will do a google doc by December 2 to provide a central clearing place for commissioners to know who is asking what business for sponsorship. Commissioners should submit their information by the December 15 planning meeting. Cathi asked for the packet to be sent to all the commissioners. Emma asked whether the Bloomington North Student Council could be a sponsor, and Grace asked the same about Interact, a Rotary Club organization from Bloomington South. It was clarified that sponsors don't just have to be businesses owned or operated by women. Non-profits can also have exhibits at the luncheon. The schools, like any other non-profit, would not have to pay a fee for exhibiting.

Discussion ensued about the speaker. The planning group thought the speaker subgroup was securing the speaker. One idea is Mae Jenison for Black History Month. Other suggestions are someone from the law school or Elizabeth Cullen Dunn, a professor who has expertise related to immigrants. Jacqueline suggested going with her. Regina will contact her.

Continued Discussion with Monroe County Women's Commission

Discussion continued with the County Commissioners in sharing of ideas for how to collaborate. Regina suggested the idea of celebrating International Women's Day (March 8). The theme for Women's History Month is Labor and Business. Perhaps the groups could sponsor a tea or a

more elaborate event. Concern was expressed about funding—the County group does not have funds. Debby suggested one of the commissioners explore what may already be going on. She was concerned about the capability of the CSW to do a community event by March. Perhaps an alternative would be for the groups to support other events already planned—the Commissions could help publicize an event and could have a rep from each Commission talk.

Another suggestion was to change the date—Cathi suggested Pay Equality Day in April. Debbie suggested something in May related to Mother's Day and refugees. Perhaps one person from each Commission could take the responsibility to explore options or a subgroup.

Jacqueline offered the ideas of increasing awareness about the limited staffing in the women's department of the State Department of Health. The two Commissions could write a joint letter—this idea was well received. The question was raised about who would be the appropriate recipient. Terry Lee would be a good resource as a recipient. The Health Commissioner and the new governor were both identified as possible recipients. Other suggestions were any appropriate legislative committee and any female legislators. The County Commission will take initiative. They will work with Terri and ask what she needs and will try to get it done by December. They will send info to Sue.

Report from High School Liaisons

Grace shared that Interact is a high school group sponsored by Rotary. The group collaborates to do things for the community—an example is making blankets for Middle Way House International. The group at Bloomington South is led by 2 female co-presidents. The group meets twice monthly during the day. It would be great to have a commissioner speak to the group. Grace will talk with the presidents to schedule a date.

Regina indicated there hasn't been student representation from Bloomington South at the WHM luncheon. Grace volunteered to do so and will talk with her teacher about how to make that happen. She will follow up with Sue.

Emma is involved with Student Council and United Students at Bloomington North. United Students is a gay and straight alliance and has almost all female leadership. Other organizations at North are not as strong in female leadership. There used to be recognition events of sexual assault month and other similar dates but not now. Emma is going to take on the challenge of creating a celebration event. Discussion ensued about the recent situation of the displaying of the Confederate flag at North. Aggression was experienced by female members of the LBGTQ community at the school. Students received slurs from other students and parents. A question was raised about support from the school leadership. The principal sent a letter to parents and did ban the flag. The slurs were not addressed by leadership. Questions was raised about what the CSW can do to help—should CSW go as a group to the school board or to the superintendent? There is an internal process to report harassment. Emma said the initial form to start the process is intimidating. Debby suggested inviting commissioners and others to talk about how to be an activist and what resources are available for support. Stephanie Power Carter does this type of training—Beth has attended one of her sessions. Debbie suggested the two Commissions write a letter and ask the school leadership to be more active in addressing this

type of situation. The letter should maybe also go to the Herald-Times. Cathi will draft an initial letter.

Adjournment

Cathi moved for adjournment and Kristi seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Goings