

The Commission on the Status of Women
Thursday, October 6, 2018 5:30 PM
McCloskey Room, Suite #135
City Hall
401 N Morton Street, Bloomington, IN
Meeting Minutes

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

Commissioners Absent: Landry Culp, Jacqueline Fernette, Debby Herbenick

County Commissioner Present: Monica Dignam

High School Liaison: Kai Taylor (not present)

Staff Liaison: Sue Owens

Public Present: Brandi Smith, Indiana University Career Development Center

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order by Sylvia at 5:37pm

2. Request for Additional Agenda Items

- Maqube requested addition of co-commission meeting with Commission on the Status of Youth be added to the agenda under new business.
- Debby requested that the commission discuss drafting a letter to the Mayor and City Council on the topic of paid family leave for city employees in new business.

3. Approval of September Minutes

- Ashley moved to approve September minutes as amended. Maqube seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

4. Old Business

a. Women's History Month Luncheon

- o Sue reports on behalf of Jacqueline. At the last committee meeting, they focused on speakers. The committee encourages suggestions in line with the theme of "Visionary Women, Champions for Peace and Non-Violence". The next committee meeting will be held on October 18th.
- o The committee approved a letter to solicit sponsors and exhibitors. They would like to suggest that sponsorship levels for the 2019 luncheon be raised from \$150/\$250/\$500 to \$200/\$300/\$500, respectively. Ticket pricing is recommended to be kept the same. Exhibit tables will be repositioned between the buffet and the seating to maximize visibility.
- o The committee requests that Ashley and Maqube emcee the event. Both agreed.

- Ashley moved increase silver and gold sponsorship levels from \$150/\$250 to \$200/\$300, respectively. Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

b. Women's Leadership Development Event

- Maqube reports. City Hall is reserved for March 30, 2019 10am-12pm. The committee is communicating with 2018 scholarship winners to confirm them for presentations. The theme is "Women, Power, and Progress".
- The committee is still contemplating format and speakers. Sylvia recommends that the committee reach out to Dr. Maria Hamilton Abegunde and asks what type of "power" the theme focuses on. Maqube says the type of power is undefined and that leaves the committee open to present on many types of power. Amy recommends Courtney Payne Taylor as a possible speaker.

c. Black Girls Discussion

- Sue reports on behalf of Debby. MCCSC approved to support racial safety training for educators. The training was scheduled, but recently put on hold. The trainer is still waiting for the reschedule date to be announced.
- Debby plans to attend a co-commission meeting with the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth regarding MCCSC suspension rates of children of color.

5. Liaison Reports

a. Monroe County Women's Commission Report

- No report.

b. High School Liaison Report

- No report.

c. Staff Liaison Report.

- Sue reports. Articles and information for the November newsletter are due no later than October 22nd. Sue is working with the City webmaster and creative teams on creating a new display for the commission.

6. New Business

a. Vote on Volunteer Recorder

- Maqube moves to elect Savanna Wormley as the volunteer recorder. Nana seconds the motion. The motion passes with all in favor.

b. Co-Commission Meeting

- Maqube reports that the commission received a message from Julie Warren from the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. She would like to meet and address the suspension data at MCCSC. Data shows a disproportionate percentage of black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students being suspended. The meeting appears to be informal. Maqube, along with Debby and Amy plan to be present at the meeting as it aligns with our mission to focus on black girls in Bloomington. They will report back in November.

c. Paid Family Leave

- Sue presents on behalf of Debby. Debby proposes that the commission draft and sign a letter to Mayor John Hamilton and the City Council on the topic of paid family leave for City employees. Debby volunteers to draft the letter. The commission supports the issue and Debby drafting a letter. Monica suggests garnering support from the County Commission and ask that it be extended to County employees as well. We will let Debby know that we are in agreement with drafting the letter, but may need to revise to add County employees.

7. Public Input

- Brandi Smith from the Indiana University Career Development Center reports. Her office works with freshmen, sophomores, and undecided students and assists with exploratory career services. The center realized that the gender equity gap played a role in career development for young women and decided to tackle the issue. In association with Indiana University Bloomington Women Rising Program and the American Association of University Women, the career development center is creating an initiative that will include a student ambassador program, Start Smart Workshops, and an advisory council. Through these elements, Brandi hopes that the center can provide networking, skill-building, and career opportunities for women to help shore up the gender equity gap.
- The program seeks guest speakers, community relationships, and broader awareness by potentially partnering with the Commission in the future.

8. Future Planning

- Discussed outcomes in from retreat and focused on “There is a culture of collaboration on issues important to women throughout the community”. Brainstormed ideas for International Day of the Girl and partnerships with other advocacy groups for other awareness days.

ACTION ITEM: Bring names and contacts of groups who focus on women’s interests for next meeting

9. Adjournment

- 6:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley R. Hazelrig