

# **Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Thursday, June 4, 2020, 5:30PM  
Zoom Meeting

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Call to Order**

- a. Nana called to order the Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at 5:36PM on June 4, 2020, the meeting was held via Zoom. Commissioners present: Jenn Sims, Nicole Weinard, Shruti Rana, Nana Amoah-Ramey, Ashley Hazelrig, Rachel Frydman, and A'ame Joslin. City employee Sue Owens and member of the public, Meghan Meyer were also present

### **2. Request for Additional Agenda Items**

- a. Jenn reinforced need for commission to take stand against police brutality and racist practices

### **3. For the Good of the Cause**

### **4. Approval of March Minutes**

- a. Minutes from May meeting were approved

### **5. Old Business**

- a. WHM Lunch – March 25, 2020; Theme: “Valiant Women of the Vote”
  - i. Cancelled due to COVID -19
  - ii. Jenn reported on the conversations at IU about involving Elaine Weiss in another capacity (virtual this year or live in March)
  - iii. Sue stated city would be interested in partnership, contracts will be drawn in the fall for March events’ speaker
  - iv. Shruti recommended that we consider what will be most relevant for 2021 topics and if Elaine is chosen as March speaker, she could update her topic
  - v. Jenn reminded us that Elaine Weiss may be a bigger draw as Steven Spielberg’s “The Woman’s Hour” will be released
  - vi. Sue reported that award winners have their plaques and the mayor’s office and the award recipients are on-board for recording interviews for video publication
  - vii. Jenn questioned the length of the recording or live “lunch and learn,” 10 minutes is too short for our content and too long for social media. Hour long “lunch and learn” virtual event could be promoted through list serve emails, social media, sharing and this may yield a larger number of attendees with a broader reach.
  - viii. Sue concerned that a live event may stress the city employees who are involved; a solution was suggested to do a combination pre-recorded and live event
  - ix. Ashley suggested a recorded event could have sound bites featured on social media

- x. A'ame asked if we would have a donation option, Jenn asked if we are permitted to solicit, and Sue will check with legal
- xi. Nana asked if this event would have a speaker and Nic suggested we combine WHM and WLD events and Shruti agreed to be speaker; Meghan suggested Shruti be live to accommodate a Q&A
- xii. Jenn motioned that we have a WHM/WLD combined virtual seminar that includes award ceremony and interviews as well as speaker (combined live and pre-recorded to accommodate all) and was approved.
- b. WLD Event - March 28, 2020, 10:00AM-12:00PM; Theme: "Women: Participation and Progress"
  - i. Cancelled due to COVID-19
  - ii. See 5.a
  - iii. Meghan offered to re-do advertising using WLD event format
- c. Women's effort during COVID-19
  - i. Nic has interviewed 6 women around Bloomington and continues to request further contacts in Bloomington and beyond who are assisting their communities during the pandemic
    - 1. Example: Hotels for the Homeless; helping 60 women/families to get into apartments and currently has 70 in hotels
    - 2. Sue suggested Nic connect with Bloom who is publicizing "heroes of COVID"
    - 3. Sue will add these stories to the next newsletter going out July 1<sup>st</sup> - will need entries by June 19th

## **6. Reports from Commissioners**

- a. Monroe County Women's Commission Report
  - i. Commission has not met, next planning meeting scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. No update on girls coding event
- b. High School Liaison
  - i. No update, Kai absent.

## **7. New Business**

- a. BCSW anti-racist practices (added by A'ame)
  - i. Historically our voice has had a focus on white women; we have the opportunity and obligation to elevate the voice of black women
  - ii. Can we support/make public statement for the march/protest scheduled for tomorrow? Can we publish this statement online and in newspaper(s)?
  - iii. Ashley discussed how the commission has historically featured and honored black women. The only "action" we have done recently as a commission is to create the "Young Women of the Year Award" and is open to suggestions to build events, partnerships, policy change, etc

- iv. A'ame suggested providing education to help women (of all races) talk to their children about racism. How to be an actor, not just "say" they are not a racist. Using our platform to provide opportunities for action
- v. Rachel mentioned producing videos to educate, maybe recruiting prominent women to share stories
- vi. Nana proposed a book club focusing on black culture and history that could have regular discussion meetings, "unless we educate, we cannot change"
- vii. A'ame will draft our statement
  - 1. Shruti asked that we emphasis local women/racism
  - 2. Jenn said the statement needs to include that we condemn the violence and injustice, name black women, and vow to do better - state our action plan
  - 3. Ashley asked for LGBTQ to be included
  - 4. A'ame/Nic/Shruti discussed possible legislation and asked for it to be added to July meeting
- viii. Jenn suggested this topic could be an opportunity for collaboration with the county commission

**8. Public Input**

**9. Adjournment**

- a. Ashley adjourned the meeting at 7:17PM.