

## Commission on the Status of Women

August Meeting (via Zoom) - Minutes for August 7, 2020

Commissioners Present: Ashley Hazelrig, Jennifer Sims, A'ame Josline, Debby Herbenick, Nicole Weinard, Nana Amoah-Ramey, Shruti Rana

Guest: Kira Domonique

Staff Liaison: Sue Owens

1. Roundtable introductions and "Good of the Cause"
2. Call for Additional Agenda Items:
  - Support for women during pandemic
  - Reparations and Land Acquisition (Kira)
3. Motion to approve June minutes – Jenn moved, Shruti second.
4. Old Business:
  - Sue - updated group on status of BCSW video and asked for any commissioner that hasn't recorded yet to schedule a time to do so next week.
  - Shruti – reported on recent conversations she has had with people in the community about racism and women of color. City is viewed as inhospitable to women of color, mainly because of recent Farmer's Market events. Another perception that dates back ten years or so, is that BCSW and other commissions are not oriented to women of color. The commissions are viewed as either doing nothing or inhospitable. Also that the HT highlights women's contribution in the community, but leaves out women of color. Shruti wants the BCSW to be aware of this perception. A'ame stated that white women's voices have taken over voices of all women. The BCSW should work on policy to include all women. Kira stated that she suffers from it first hand and is mad about it. Media is not giving black women the attention they deserve. She provides Equine Therapy and has to work extra hard because she is black. Debby suggested the BCSW have a listening meeting to listen to concerns of women of color and highlight them in BCSW newsletter and Facebook page. Jenn suggested the BCSW have a broader reach and cast a wider net through the Beacon, The Bloomingtonian, MCPL and other community boards. Also a social media campaign highlighting women of color contributions from the past that are still impacting the community today and will continue to do so into the future. Kira has created a platform called "Chickflix" that highlights women of color that are underdogs not just established black women. A'ame suggested that BCSW highlight women who help other women with basic needs like childcare, housing, food security, transportation, etc. Ashley suggested BCSW

dig into amplifying voices and building programming and partnerships around bringing women of color to the forefront.

5. MCWC Report (Jenn):

- MCWC met in June. Moving forward with Girls Coding Week – will teach teenage girls coding techniques. Camp will be online and is a 5 week program from October 12 to November 13, 2020. The program is administered through Google platform and all software from Google and equipment (IPads) from MCCSC and RBB is free. Currently looking for mentors - if any commission members are interested in speaking for 30 minutes on Women's Empowerment, contact Nichelle Whitey, Chair of MCWC. Applications for the camp are available online.
- MCWC will host a cooking show lunch-n-learn. Partnering with Banneker Center to teach community how to make and pack healthy, nutritious meals for children. This will take place last part of October.
- Anti-racist conversations – at the least encourage parents to talk to their children about racism. Free event “Kids, Race, Racism – Where to Start” on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m.
- Market MCSW events on BCSW FB page and in BCSW newsletter.

6. H/S Liasion: Kai has stepped down – looking for replacement. Would like to find a H/S gal that can consistently be a part of the commission and bring challenges of young women to the table.

7. Legislative subcommittee Cities for CEDAW (Nic): BCSW will form legislative subcommittee. For anyone interested in participating contact Nic or Shruti.

8. Reparations and Land Acquisition (Kira): Kira would like to form a subcommittee or get people together to talk about getting land and businesses back into the hands of people of color. Also, looking for physical sponsorships. Jenn recommended that Kira contact Rachel Frydman, BCSW commissioner and local attorney.