

Minutes for 6/3/21

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

Present: Commissioners Debby Herbenick, Nana Amoah-Ramey, Landry Culp, Shruti Rana, Nicole Bennett

Guest: Julie Duhon

Staff: Sue Owens

1. Call to Order at 5:35 pm by Landry, acting as chair.
2. Request for Additional Agenda Items - None
3. For the Good of the Cause
4. Guest Julie Duhon presented on Tandem Community Birth Center and Postpartum House. This is a new 501(c)3 dating back to Jan. 2021. Julie presented a powerpoint on their planned services, including Community Care (education and support groups on childbirth education, lactation, etc); the group is hoping to open a midwife-led Medical Clinic and Birth Center in Spring 2022; and establishment of a postpartum house planned. Julie shared their values, goals, and plans and outreach and growth efforts.
5. Approval of the minutes for May. A'ame moved to approve; seconded by Nana, and the motion was approved.
6. 2022 WHM Celebration: Debby and Sue provided updates; the Monroe County Convention Center has been rented for March 23. The theme and confirmation of in-person will come later, perhaps in early fall for the theme.
7. Legislative Subcommittee Update: A'ame provided an update. The committee is planning on hosting a large listening session around the Lotus Festival, and would like to use that as an opportunity to start collecting data from women in Bloomington. The plans include a physical listening session, as well as handing out QR codes and people with clipboard to encourage participation. The Committee is also planning to look at the data that the city has collected and what concerns or data the city has responded to and why. The Committee hopes to reach women who did not participate in the city's surveys as well as those who did. The Committee plans to work with students pursuing a Capstone project from SPEA to support the development and distribution of the survey, participate in event and data analysis as well as legislative tasks. The committee is planning to connect with others regarding the bill on shackling pregnant women/women giving birth. Nic is planning to meet with the bill's author(s) next week. Finally, the Committee is also seeking to collect data on their family leave efforts, as outlined in the letter shared with the Commission earlier.
8. Motions:

- A. A'ame moved for a vote on the creation of a survey to identify the individual needs of the women of Bloomington. Nic seconded and the motion passed.
 - B. A'ame moved for a vote on whether to create a listening session event. Landry seconded and the vote passed.
 - C. A'ame moved to vote to utilize a capstone group from SPEA at IU to support the listening sessions and/or process to support identifying the individual needs of the women of Bloomington. Nic seconded and the motion passed.
9. New Business: A'ame plans to serve on the re-imagining policing commission but needs details on their meetings.
10. Monroe County Women's Commission Liaison (Nicole). Nic related that they discussed the reinstatement of the public meeting rule and whether hybrid meetings will continue and if so, the parameters. They also asked how they could support our listening sessions.
11. Mary Hobson - High school liaison not present; Sue reported that she had communicated with Mary, who can no longer be the liaison because she is graduating from high school, and recommended teachers to contact for recommendations. Sue plans to contact the teachers for recommendations.
12. Public Input: Julie Duhon shared that enjoyed attending the meeting and would like to hear more about our work. A'ame mentioned that she and her group could participate in the listening sessions. Julie also asked for ways that the agenda can be shared with the public prior to the meetings so that interested people can join. Sue said that agendas were not currently posted.
13. A'ame moved to to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm, which was seconded and the meeting adjourned.