

**THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**  
**Minutes for Thursday, December 7, 2017 5:30PM**  
**McCloskey Room, Suite 135**  
**City Hall**  
**401 N. Morton Street Bloomington, IN**

**Commissioners Present:** Ashley Hazelrig, Penny Githens, Debby Herbenick, Beth Friedman Kirk, Regina Moore, Maqube Reese

**Commissioners Absent:** Jacqueline Fernette, Sylvia Martinez, Zaira Hernandez

**County Commissioner Present:** none

**High School Liaisons:** none

**Staff Liaison Present:** Sue Owens

**Community Volunteer Recorder Present:** Donna Goings

**Community Guests present:** none

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by at 5:33P.M.

**Additions to Agenda:** Discussion of sexual assault event

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of November were reviewed and approved as corrected. Maqube moved to approve and Penny seconded. Regina abstained. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

**A. WHM Lunch—March 21, 2018**

Debby gave update on WHM Lunch planning. Zaira volunteered to be on committee but hasn't confirmed for certain. She will be the fourth member on the awards selection committee.

**B. WLD Event**

Beth gave update. Next meeting is January 15. The Monroe County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) will be a partner in promoting the event. Ashley will be co-chair of planning committee as Beth's term is ending.

**C. Leadership Scholarship Initiative**

A question was raised about the availability of increased funding. The amount will be \$1,500 starting in January. We want to avoid double dipping from previous participants, and we need to expand sharing with our networks to help get the word out. The other city commissions have been informed.

**Report from Monroe County Women's Commission:** None

**Report from High School Liaison:** None. We have not heard Abby Cannon about being a representative from BHS North. Penny is talking to South High School.

## **New Business**

### **A. Liaison's Report**

Sue shared National Women and Girls HIV-AIDS Awareness Day is March 10. Concern was expressed about all the other events being held in March. If testing events are happening, they could be announced in the BCSW newsletter and a representative could be sent. A joint letter with other groups could be sent to the H-T newspaper.

### **B. Multi-Commission Bicentennial Contest**

Maqube shared several commissions are asking children to do presentations on history. Each commission will have a specific contest for K-12. They will be divided into four age groups. Each commission will have a given month. CSW could do for Women's Equity Day in August. It could be announced in March at the WHM luncheon. Children can do any type of media. There is a first and second prize for each age group and a prize for groups. Debby expressed concern about comparing media rather than selecting a specific type for a specific contest. Maqube will take back to planning committee that we want to streamline our contest to specific media. The goal is to have the Mayor include the contest announcement in his big Bicentennial announcement. One suggestion is to use a poster design for our media type. Maqube will take all the questions back to the planning group; she also asked for help from the Commission members. The group agreed.

### **C. BCSW Newsletter**

Sue shared that intern and staff liaisons usually prepare commission newsletters based on content from commissioners. If there is not much content, information about upcoming events related to other commissions can be included. All commissions are encouraged to have a newsletter—at least quarterly. Perhaps the City Commission could partner with the County Commission for content. Each commission develops its own mailing list and sign-up is listed on the website. It can be announced for solicitation at all of our events and details can be given for how people opt in. Debby suggested we solicit newsletter signup on the BCT Box Office web site where WHM Lunch tickets are sold. We have names/emails from prior events and could send email asking about interest. A newsletter would let us suggest ways to advocate for women between events,

to do surveys, and to help promote other women group's activities. Maqube moved we establish a newsletter and Beth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sue will draft a newsletter and send the first edition out in January 2018.

Maqube asked about our social media presence—CSW does have a Facebook page. Sue indicated that we can have our own art but format is consistent across city commissions. Sue will check on how to let people subscribe and build a contact list. Articles should be 1-2 paragraphs (no more than 3). Members should get appropriate articles to Sue by December 15. Sue will send a reminder email. Regina will recruit an article from the County Commission.

#### **D. Sexual Assault Event**

Some of the commissioners attended a panel on sexual assault that was limited in time. They are interested in having a similar panel for a longer time frame. Perhaps we could co-sponsor with another women's group. Another suggestion is to partner with sexual assault topics addressed around prom-time. A question is who we do want to target and how to tailor to the audience. Ideas included holding the event in City Hall or MCPL or Girls Inc. Topics could include telling younger women what flirting is versus assault versus aggression versus bad manners; emotional trauma of those who go through pursuing legal recourse; helping younger women to know how to prevent in their lives. The Commission is willing to support the idea.

**Public Input:** None

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Goings  
Community Volunteer Recorder