

# MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes, Friday, May 11, 2018

Monroe County Courthouse, Judge Nat U. Hill, III, Meeting Room

<b>Commissioners, Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Amanda Barge, Commissioner (non-voting, ex officio)		X
Ann Collins, Board of Commissioners	X	
Monica Dignam, Board of Commissioners	X	
Liz Feitl, Board of Commissioners	X	
Shirley Fitzgibbons, County Council	X	
Carol McCord, Indiana University	X	
Eric Spoonmore, Councilor (non-voting ex officio)	X	
Catherine Stafford, Board of Commissioners		X
Nancy White, County Council	X	
Jacqueline Fernette, City Comm'n on the Status of Women		X
Lynn Shifriss, co-liason City Comm'n on the Status of Women	X	
Diana Nixon, County Council	X	
# of Voting Members	9	
# of Voting Members Needed to Create a Quorum	5	

## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Ann Collins who began with introductions, since we had a speaker and new board member Diana Nixon. Chair Monica Dignam arrived after the meeting began, during introductions.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was amended to table the discussion of joining John Clower's coalition, proposed by Catherine, who was not present. The agenda was then approved by consensus.

### 3. Approval of minutes

Minutes from April were approved by consensus with no changes.

### 4. Report from Guest Maresa Murray, Ph.D

Guest speaker, Dr. Maresa Murray was introduced by Shirley.

Dr. Murray co-authored the study she presented on the topic: What it's like to be young, black and female in Bloomington. The study's authors, Morgan Newman, Phoebe Powell, Maresa Murray, Sharlene D. Newman, co-wrote an article and video here:

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/2017/08/25/what-its-like-young-black-and-female-bloomington/598780001/>

Dr. Murray presented the video and answered questions. When asked what we could do, she suggested that we might contact the school superintendent in support of training she suggested has proposed to MCCSC.

**Action Item:** We will be in touch with Judy DeMuth, Superintendent of MCCSC Schools, to support this training.

### 5. Report from City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) Liaison

Monica brought up our discussion from last month to the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women regarding a joint 'guest column' on the status of women in Indiana. There was general agreement that a joint letter from our groups on the status of women in Indiana could be a good topic for such a joint effort.

There was consensus that a joint 'guest column' length letter-to-the-editor should be considered. Monica provided several recent articles on the status of women in Indiana for background.

**Action Item:** Lynn Shifriss (BWC liaison) and Ann Collins will co-author a draft column. It was agreed that the authors would circulate a draft to

MCWC Commissioners in advance of the next BCSW (June 7) meeting; where Lynn and Monica will present the draft to BCSW. Note that our meeting is the following day, on June 8, where the same draft would be presented.

## 6. Pay Equity Day Update (Event date: Sunday August 26, 2-4 p.m.)

Eric reported that the Courthouse is available, there may be a nominal fee. Amanda will meet with the Courthouse facilities staff shortly to make the arrangement, Eric will provide the necessary information to Amanda. There has been no meeting of the sub-committee since our last meeting.

**Action Item:** Next scheduled meeting for the sub-committee, May 21, 4 p.m. at Stafford Law Office, 714 West Kirkwood.

## 7. Ivy Tech Girls Coding Update

Diana Nixon reported that both registration of underserved girls and volunteer sign-ups for the event have been disappointing. So far, just 6 girls have signed up and there are only 2 volunteers. She was unable to secure funding for a stipend for the volunteers and the Ivy Tech students she was hoping to recruit are unable to work without pay. Liz suggested that Diana contact the Volunteer Network and Nancy suggested Wonder Lab for volunteers. The combination of low enrollment and lack of volunteers will likely result in smaller groups than the 20 that were initially planned.

We will continue with the Courthouse graduation ceremony, to include certificates and cupcakes, and tentatively to take place at the Courthouse. June 22 and June 29, at 4pm. Catherine will prepare the certificate. Amanda will make the presentation and Ivy Tech Culinary School students (thank you Liz for contacting Chancellor JennieVaughn) will make cupcakes for the event. The recognition event will be held at 2:30 p.m. on both Fridays, June 22 and June 29.

**Action Item:** Monica will continue to work with Girls, Inc., Big Sisters and the City's Hispanic Community Liaison to recruit girls.

**Action Item:** Catherine will do a graduation certificate.

**Action Item:** Amanda will present the certificates at the Courthouse. The ceremony will be held at 2:30 pm in the Nat U. Hill Room on both Fridays June 22 and June 29.

a. **Publicity – Where does the MCWC voice need to be this month?**

Discussion of ways MCWC might increase awareness of its work in the community through the press. Several new procedures will be adopted, including providing our agenda to [government@heraldt.com](mailto:government@heraldt.com) each month; using our voice to bring forward the concerns about raciallybased bullying against girls in area high schools. We've invited the researchers to an upcoming meeting to see what next steps from us would be helpful and whether school has been reached out to and if so what the response has been.

**Action Item:** Monica will provide a copy of our agenda in advance to [government@heraldt.com](mailto:government@heraldt.com)

**Action Item:** Ann will write a press release – targeting monthly – to be distributed to the area press, directing interest in our activities. We can use this agenda item for a brief discussion each month about the items that we would like to highlight.

**Action Item:** Monica will call CATS to see if they will broadcast our monthly meeting using the equipment that is available in the Nat U. Hill room.

b. **Announcements**

11. **Meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Monica Dignam*

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Monica Dignam

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**June 7 – 5:30 p.m.**

Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

City Hall

**June 8 – 12:00 p.m.**

Monroe County Women’s Commission Monthly Meeting

Monroe County Courthouse, Judge Nat U. Hill, III, Room (third floor)