

**MICHIGAN CITY  
INDIANA  
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday July 16, 2020 at 5 PM  
Krueger Memorial Hall

- I. President Bonnie Schaaf called the meeting to order promptly at 5 pm. She welcomed Commissioner Sarah Jones to her first meeting as a commissioner and asked her to introduce herself. That was followed by brief introductions by the other commissioners.

Present: Commissioners: Bonnie Schaaf, Albertine Allen, Veronica Martin, Faye Moore, Sarah Jones, and Jo Ann Engquist. A quorum was established.

Absent: Commissioners: Nicole Florek, Kristina Isabelle and Sharlene Livesay  
Liaison : President of the City Council, Sean Fitzpatrick, was also absent.

- II. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 18,2020 meeting was made by Commissioner Faye Moore and seconded by Commissioner Jo Ann Engquist. Approval was unanimous.

- III. The treasurer was absent, but her report was sent out to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. There were no changes since the previous report

- IV. Commissioner Engquist nominated Commissioner Allen to be Vice President. Commissioner Moore seconded. There were no additional nominations, so a vote was then taken. The vote in favor was unanimous.

V. Old Business

- A. The expenditures for the Women's History Month Events was \$400.00 for food and craft supplies for sashes and posters. Performances were canceled so no payment was made to performers.
- B. President Schaaf, reported that the commission's portion of the profits made at the Women's History Event at the Barker Mansion was \$370.
- C. Sashes, similar to those worn by the Suffragists and made by Esther Guncheon. were met with approval. It was determined to sell them for \$15.00 each in order to make a profit.
- D. In response to the *Annual Report to the City Council and Mayor*, previous President Dalia Zygus had already prepared a presentation for August 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 at the City Council Meeting. The entire Commission for Women has been requested to attend the presentation that will be given by current President Schaaf.

VI. New Business

- A. A request made by Commissioner Allen to begin our meeting earlier than 5 pm was not resolved. At this time, we will continue to meet at 5pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.
- B. The Commission will deliver a Resolution to Michigan City Common Council and a Proclamation to Mayor Parry commemorating the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and the honoring of Women's Equality Day. Commissioner Schaaf will send these to the Commission for approval before submitting the request to the City Council and Mayor. The League of Women Voters of La Porte County will be delivering, a Proclamation to Mayor Demrody and Resolutions to the City Council of La Porte, La Porte County Council, La Porte County Commission, Westville, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, and LaCrosse.
- C. The commissioners decided that we cannot have an event this year to commemorate Women's Equality Day due to the pandemic. Albertine Allen suggested that we give a tribute to celebrate two women each month on our webpage, and volunteered to organize that.
- D. The commissioners decided that some of us would go as a group to see the latest exhibit, "Well Behaved Women" at the Lubeznik Center and some would go individually. We are co-sponsors of the exhibit. A date in August or September will be determined.
- E. A poetry contest has been developed for school children and designed to teach them about a soon to be popular heroine of Michigan City and early suffragist, Naomi Anderson. President Schaaf has researched this fascinating and talented woman, who was forgotten in Michigan City until now. Sarah Jones volunteered to review the materials and distribute them to schools.
- F. Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26, when the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was Certified. The League of Women Voters of La Porte County will be celebrating that day. The event has not been finalized since it must be downsized due to COVID 19.

VII. There were no public comments

VIII. The council liaison was absent

IX. Commissioners' Comments: President Schaaf announced that the US Department of Labor will seek public input on the effectiveness and impact of paid family leave on women and families. The dates for the 90 day comment period have not yet been announced. President Schaaf will forward the announcement, and any follow ups, from US Department of Labor to the Commissioners.

- X. President Schaaf called for a motion to adjourn. It was done by Commissioner Engquist and seconded by Commissioner Allen. The meeting ended at 5:55 pm

The next meeting is August 20, 2020 at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jo Ann Engquist, Secretary Pro Tem