

Indiana Commission for Women
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 11, 2012
Indiana State Library
Betsy Corridan, Chair, presiding

Present: Sen. Vaneta Becker, Linda Bloom, Sen. Jean Breaux, Virginia Calvin, Betsy Corridan, Cindy Felsten, Anne Jacoby, Kori McOmber, Amy McQueen, Erin Smith, Patzetta Trice and Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer via phone

Also Present: Kristin Garvey, Executive Director; K.D. Thurman, AmeriCorps VISTA; Amanda Ezell, Administrative Assistant; and Patrick Cunningham for Rep. Gail Riecken

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by Chair Betsy Corridan. A quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Corridan asked that board members and guests introduce themselves.

Secretary's Report: Cindy Felsten moved to accept the minutes from the November 2011 board retreat and the notes from the January 2012 conference call. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Anne Jacoby indicated that 75 percent of the fiscal year has been completed and ICW has expended 72 percent of its personnel budget. Given projected expenses, everything seems to be on track with ICW running very close to budget. With several changes related to relocating to the Indiana Civil Rights Commission next year, ICW will be able to reduce operational costs in operational areas such as technology.

Review of Torchbearer Awards: From a programmatic and logistics standpoint, the Torchbearer Awards was a success. From a financial standpoint, the board must take more responsibility in securing sponsorships. This year, there was \$4,350 in sponsorships added to ICW's special funds, which was roughly \$21,000. The cost for the event was roughly \$11,000. Going forward, ICW's funds are now around \$9,000. If there is an area to be improved it would be in sponsorship development. Because ICW partners with the Indiana Women's History Association, sponsors can get tax deductions when they donate. From a business perspective, the business wants a return on investment (ROI). The current sponsorship list is also outdated, so the board must take time to update the list of sponsors and create a development strategy that starts earlier and addresses the ROI for contributors. Patzetta Trice and Erin Smith agreed to work on a three year resource development plan that is integrated with the strategic plan. The plan should explore ways to sustain the Torchbearer Awards in the short-term and the Commission in the long-term. They will bring back the plan at the June 20th meeting.

Executive Director's Report: Kristin Garvey asked K.D. Thurman to update the board on the listening sessions/debrief sessions. Thurman reported that the statewide debrief was conducted in six locations throughout the state of Indiana (Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Sellersburg and South Bend) in the month of November 2011. Garvey presented the findings to a group of seventy women in Richmond, Indiana. The group indicated that they would like to conduct their own listening session in order to gain community-specific information. The next steps include: Setting up presentations in Northwest Indiana and Terre Haute, Conducting a listening session for Richmond, Indiana, and then completing a final report by the June board meeting that incorporates the listening sessions report with the debrief report. The board asked that the final report include statistical information to provide a framework and highlight some best practices from other communities or states.

Discussion turned to how ICW can address the issues in the five key areas identified in the listening sessions. Cindy Felsten mentioned a national initiative called Political Parity and suggested that ICW host a candidate exploration workshop for women who might be interested in running for political office. It was recognized that there are other programs in Indiana, including the Lugar Series and the Democratic Women's Caucus training efforts. This effort would be non-partisan and introductory for those women who are just beginning to explore the possibility. Chair Corridan asked that Felsten convene a committee to review the feasibility of such a workshop and develop a proposal to be presented at the June 20th board meeting. The committee included: Linda Bloom, Virginia Calvin, Anne Jacoby, Kori McOmber, and Patzetta Trice.

Legislative Update: Cindy Felsten commented that there was a need for more women in the General Assembly. She also indicated that ICW needed to continue to review issues that affect women. For example, the board should revisit the discussion begun with the State Personnel Department (SPD) on wage equity of state employees. The board asked for any updated information and a conference call prior to the board meeting to discuss the information. It was agreed that the board would provide questions ahead of the meeting so that SPD can compile additional information, if needed. Chair Corridan asked that this discussion be scheduled for the June 20th board meeting.

Indiana Civil Rights Commission Presentation: Jamal Smith, executive director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC), provided an overview of ICW's upcoming move to ICRC on July 1, 2012. This change came under the passage of House Bill 1002. Smith indicated that nothing about ICW's current budget, mission or objectives would change. The Commission is simply physically moving from one place to another. Just as ICW works with DWD, the Commission will work with ICRC staff. ICW can continue to move forward on its initiatives. There are relationships that have already been developed through ICRC that could benefit ICW. Smith indicated that those relationships are there for ICW when and if they are needed.

Kristin Garvey reported that House Bill 1003 will take effect January 1, 2013 and will allow agencies to conduct meetings via electronic communications. It will save time and money with less traveling to Indianapolis for meetings. The board will have to develop an electronic communications policy based on requirements stated in the statute and vote on the policy before it can be utilized.

Strategic Planning: At the board retreat in November 2011, members of the strategic planning committee were identified. They are: Erin Smith (Chair), Betsy Corridan, Virginia Calvin, Cindy Felsten, Erin Houchin, and Anne Jacoby with Kristin Garvey as staff member. The committee had a preliminary conference call on March 15, 2012, to discuss process. The committee then agreed to meet to review and update the strategic plan for 2012-2015. In preparation of this meeting the committee was tasked with: reviewing the 2010-2012 strategic plan, review the listening sessions and debrief sessions, as well as considering possible values to include in the strategic plan. The committee will present and report on the 2012-2015 strategic plan at the June board meeting.

Old Business: Chair Corridan asked that an issues response procedure be drafted that would include a protocol on how to respond to specific issues based on ICW's mission. The procedure would be presented at the June board meeting.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

Adjournment: Betsy Corridan adjourned the meeting at 2:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Ezell, Administrative Assistant