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**Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls February
Public Meeting Minutes-DRAFT**

February 9, 2023, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

This meeting will be a virtual meeting.

Online location via Zoom:

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82659685808?pwd=eTk4VzhhSkIxR0dHdUZjUkNJamIzZz09>

Please contact hccswg@gmail.com for the meeting password.

- I. Call to Order and Roll call at 6:19 PM
 - A. Present-Gabrielle Jackson, Jackie Velez, Tara Cross, Nicole Coakley, Shanique Spalding
 - B. Not Present-Lizzy Ortiz
 - C. Resigned- Kim Lee and possibly Alina Carcea
- II. Approval of October 2022 meeting minutes- Jackie motioned to accept, Gabrielle seconded and all were in favor.
- III. No members of the public were present to start the meeting. At 7:30 one member signed on Kathleen Hillman, she hopped on saying she was interested in learning about our Women's History Meeting. She lives in Westfield and is interested in putting on something in a park. Park is near the bridges right along the river between that and the railroad station. There is a fountain there made in the 1800's dedicated to women/women's issues. Her plan is to put a name on the park and put a plaque dedicated to women living in Westfield making a difference and she wants the park to be on the women's history trail. Her current challenge is getting a name on the park; she wants it to be Women's Temperance Park, not Half Mile Park. Parks and Rec wants to put a rock with a plaque, she wants it to be on the wall.
- IV. Chair Report
 - A. Advocacy Day date has changed to May 31, 2023
 - B. Spring Regional Convening is also on May 31, 2023- plan for a full day
 - C. Mass Commission's 25th-anniversary dinner is June 22, also a fundraiser. Lombardo's in Randolph starts at 6 PM. There is a link for a discount for commissioners. purchase ticket here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mcsw-25th-anniversary-gala-tickets-528497007777>
 - D. We applied for a spring grant for a legislative breakfast and women's history event in March. Paying for the venue, speakers, location, etc. Will discuss this further in New Business.
 - E. Shanique made a motion to accept the report Nicole seconded, all in favor
- V. Vice-Chair Report
 - A. Shanique gave an update on the GELI event that the Mass Commission is holding. She has been participating in the prep meetings. Looking for young women to come to the conference. It will be in Worcester but they do not have an official location

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yet, the event is in the Spring. They are asking regional commissions to help recruit. They are also trying to plan transportation for western MA and South Coast area. Any commissioner is welcome to attend the planning meetings.

- B. The Mass Commission hasn't finalized their legislative agenda yet.
- C. Being a member of this commission means that we are also a part of the National Women's Commission. They are having a conference and it is in Boston this year. They are asking people to fill out a survey to help them plan out the day. August 10th to August 13th. Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53CRKYB>
National Commission also has a newsletter, if you want to sign up you can click here:
<https://nacw.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=62209ab409d5fd8db3a169ae8&id=1bc18d0c83>

D. Tara made a motion to accept the report, and Nicole seconded, all in favor.

VI. Old Business

- A. Grant overview- we submitted for \$2500 for the spring. Looking to do a women's history event in March and a legislative breakfast in May. Also a Regional hearing. If there is money left over we can maybe get an intern with a stipend. Pending to hear if we will get the funds but thinks we should still move forward with planning.
 - 1. Women's History event funds would be for stipends for 5 speakers. Thinking of having it virtual but we can do it in person if we want to and can get it together. Planning for a virtual meeting. The National Women's History Month's theme is "celebrating women who tell our stories." stories could be from the women of our region. Hampden county women's commission presents women who tell stories of our region.
 - a) Jackie suggested Magdalena Gomez- Springfield poet laureate- Jackie will contact her
 - b) Gabrielle suggested Denise Hurst-Shanique recommended instead Zaida Govan as an alternative- Shanique will contact Zaida
 - c) Nicole suggested Dr. Khadijah Tuitt- mental health background, mother of 11- Nicole will contact her
 - d) Gabrielle suggests Apryl Jones from the Republican- Gabrielle will reach out to her
 - e) Tara suggested Stephanie Marrero- Wilson-mental health field/children's book- Shanique will contact her
 - f) Jackie suggested Zydalis Bauer- Connecting Point or Elizabeth Roman-Republican- backup if we cannot get Apryl Jones
 - 2. Suggestions for a date to hold the event. Tara suggested 3/28 everyone agreed. 6:30-8 PM for an hour-and-a-half event. Gabrielle suggested Nikki be the moderator and she said yes. Nikkie made a motion to confirm this date, Tara seconded, all in favor.
 - 3. Shanique mentioned the honorarium amount to give to each speaker. Last year we did \$120, do we still want to do that now that the funds are coming from the commission, not Planned Parenthood? We all agreed on the total.
 - 4. As we get responses from speakers, please email the commission.
- B. Open Meeting Law Training and Conflict of Interest Training reminder- all commissioners need to do these. These need to be done annually. 2/22, 3/8/23 and 3/21 are upcoming training sessions.
- C. The group discussed changing our meetings from 2nd Thursday of the month to the third Tuesday of the month. Tara made a motion, and Jackie seconded, all in favor. Meetings are now on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on 3/21/23.

VII. Jackie called a motion to end the meeting at 7.54 seconded by Nicole, all in favor

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