

City of Greensboro

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINUTES

October 21, 2014

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. on the above date in the City Council Chamber, 2nd floor of the Melvin Municipal Office Building. Chair Foy presided.

Present: Commissioners Vickie Henry, Linda Mabry, Chalene Peterson, Deborah Goddard, Viola Fuller.

Excused Absences: Felicia Angus

Absences: Wanda Smith, Andrea Coombs, Lindy Perry-Garnette

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Crossling, Executive Director; Donna Gray, Senior Manager; Allen Hunt, Supervisor and Brandie Williams.

Visitors: Pat Sledge, VBW Triad and Jacqueline King, HRC Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chair Henry.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Interim Chair Henry recognized and welcomed visitors.

GUEST SPEAKERS – Pat Sledge, BPW

Mrs. Sledge thanked Chair Henry for the opportunity to present to the CSW. She is representing BPW - Building Powerful Women of the Triad and presenting with her was the local president Mrs. Leonalda Carrier and they wanted to discuss a possible partnership to conduct a Women's Agenda Assembly for the Guilford County area. They have done it twice in the fall prior to the long session for the General Assembly and they would like to have again this year and invite the CSW as a partner in order to bring more participants. It is a one day program where women gather to discuss issues of importance to women and their families and prioritize those issues to send NC Women United who put these issues into an Agenda and is presented to Legislators at the beginning of the long session.

Chair Henry asked when they are planning to have the event. Mrs. Pledge said probably in November or the beginning of 2015.

Commission Peterson asked if they like to have the event setting as an auditorium or to have break out session for more intimate conversations and she also asked what the attendance has been in the past events.

Mrs. Pledge answered that usually they have asked speakers who address specific issues and also break out session. The attendance has been between forty to sixty people.

Commissioner Peterson asked who have been partners in the past events. Mrs. Pledge answered there has been participation from NC Women United, Women from NC Justice Center, Women's Resource Center and others in the network. Commissioner Fuller said she attended to one of their past events and it was well attended, she suggested Chair Henry to make a decision in their next Executive meeting.

Commissioner Peterson thanked their presentation and Chair Henry stated they are going to discuss it in their next CSW Executive meeting.

Guest speaker – Jacqueline King

Founder and CEO of Black Women Empowered. It is a network of over a one hundred thousand women in United States and South Africa headquartered in Greensboro. She thinks that there are a lot of areas that they can work together with the CSW. To provide some history she said the reason they exist is because women do so much in the course of the day that sometimes they neglect themselves and she wanted to provide a place for encouragement and inspiration but also empower them to go after their goals. Over three years they have had Domestic Violence workshops, webinars and events where women can have extra income. She is also the CEO for Black Women Empowered Safe Haven which is the non-profit for homeless female veterans that holds over a hundred beds, the facilities will be redesigned inside The New Beginnings Church in Lexington.

Report from the Chair – Commissioner Vickie Henry

At the Executive Meeting the Commissioners discussed about revamping some of the committees which was a discussion initiated at the HRD and Commissions retreat. They are trying to decide on things to make a change in Greensboro which are race relations, poverty, immigration, mass transportation limitations, and homelessness among others. The CSW committees and its respective chairs will be as follows:

Services to the Aging, Chair Henry
Education, Commissioner Peterson
Equality, Commissioner Angus
Balance and Health, Commissioner Fuller
Domestic Violence, Commissioner Mabry
Leadership, Commissioner Goddard

One of the assignments was that each Committee will have two organizations as partners to work with.

Education Committee – Commissioner Chalene Peterson

Commissioner Peterson has not solidified the partnering agencies but she is still in the hunt for that. She reserved a room for a meeting at the Cultural Arts Center for November meeting.

Health Committee-Commissioner Viola Fuller

The committee is in the process of restructuring and members are brainstorming about partnerships. They are will be partnering again with NC A&T with the Go Red project but are considering embarking on a different project and they will be contacting former Commissioners that had spearheaded it. They will continue with the Fit 2 aT Bone and Joint Initiative.

Domestic Violence – Commissioner Linda Mabry

Commissioner Mabry stated she has found the following partners: Moms Ministry, Marva Edwards, the Writers Group, GPD, a group called “A call to men committed to ending violence against women” they are based in Durham. She would like to bring them together and see what actions can be taken in Guilford County.

Services to the Aging – Chair Henry

They are connected to the Domestic Violence for Elder Abuse. At the moment they are partnering with the Health Committee for the 50 Plus Forum and the Smith Senior Center. In addition, the Law Firm for Cheryl David who deals with Elderly estates and other elderly matters will be partnering as well.

Women and Leadership – Commissioner Goddard

She spoke to ladies that are currently participating on Impact Greensboro at the Center for Creative Leadership and three expressed interest but have not been confirmed yet. She is not only looking for Business Leaders and would like to teach on personal leadership and educate on different ways to lead.

STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Crossling thanked the commissioners their participation in the retreat. There was a post retreat packet sent which includes a formal document of the topics raised by the panel and other items. She wanted to highlight that now that the committees have been realigned, there will be a new reporting process formalized. There will be some guidelines and begin the process in sixty days. In addition, the HRD will help with membership invitations to members who are interested in participating in the committees.

Allen Hunt stated that he is enthusiastic about the ideas and energy that came out of the retreat and he wants to encourage the reporting because the work of Commission is very important and it could have impact in the budget.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes, on motion made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Mabry the minutes were unanimously approved.
- August 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes, on motion made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Peterson the minutes were unanimously approved.

CSW MEETINGS CHANGE

- Commissioner Mabry made a motion to move the CSW meetings the Executive Meeting to the 2nd Tuesdays of the month and Public Meeting to the 4th Tuesday of the month. Commissioner Fuller seconded the motion, all commissioners unanimously voted to move the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

Chairperson

Approved: _____
Date

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