

City of Greensboro

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINUTES

June 23rd, 2015

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the above date in the Orientation Room, 2nd floor of the Cultural Arts Center.

Present: Chair Felicia Angus, Vice Chair Linda Mabry, Commissioners Vickie Henry, Deborah Goddard, Sade Nicholson

Excused Absences: Commissioner Viola Fuller, Lindsay Burkart

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling-HRD Director, Allen Hunt-Supervisor

Visitors: Samuel Hawkins, Gloria Alston, Tracy Vanhook, Cynthia Picks, Zachary Tanner

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mabry called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Vice Chair Mabry recognized and welcomed visitors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee – Report Given by Committee Member

The Education Committee will be having the Women's Empowerment Conference event on July 18th at the Cultural Arts Center from 10-2. This event will consist of a series of workshops that provide educational opportunities, along with self-love and self-esteem lessons. There will be a focus on teaching the girls to reach out to other girls. The Education Committee's Facebook page now displays pictures and fliers from events.

Services to the Aging – Commissioner Henry

The Services to the Aging Committee just finished their big event: the 50+ Forum. Located at the Smith Senior Center, the 50+ Forum took place on June 18th. There was screening on blood pressure, cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes etc. Commissioner Henry extended a thank you to all the vendors who participated. Commissioner Henry reiterated the purpose of the Services to the Aging Committee, which focuses on preventing senior fraud and scams. Some of the programs include Fit to a T, the Bone Density Forum, and Breast Density Mammogram program. In addition to a focus on the elderly, the committee works on researching women's health issues.

Staff Report:

Love Crossling updated the following:

- Dr. Crossling gave an overview of the job of the Human Relations Staff, which is to help supervise and assist the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Relations Commission. There are three branches of the Human Relations Department: Education and Outreach, Fair Housing, and the Complaint Review Committee. Allen Hunt is the executive liaison to the commission. As the director of the HRD, Dr. Crossling provides the staff report at the meetings.
- Dr. Crossling thanked the commission for submitting the overall draft of the work plan, which will guide the efforts for this fiscal year. The goal was to have this finalized by July 1st, but the deadline will be extended until July 15th for revisions.
- Regarding partnerships, the staff wants to make sure that commissioners and committee members have no conflicts of interest with their employed businesses or other organization involvement that entails partnership or collaboration with the CSW.
- An update on recent community meetings, Dr. Crossling attended the Youth Services Provider Connection, the Beloved Community Center, and The Youth Service Provider Connection focused on the LGBTQQAI community and African American Male Development Initiative. The Beloved Community meeting addressed police-community issues and the Black Lives Matter initiative. The center's approach to minorities needs centers around the issues of food disparities, education, economic development and relations with police. Dr. Crossling asked the Commission to consider how these topics from the meetings could be incorporated into the work plan.
- Dr. Crossling announced to the CSW the department's yearly budget, which entails a 2,000-3,000\$ increase from last year. This will help in funding the commission's projects and increasing partnerships with other organizations.
- Recently, there was an assembly at the United Church of Christ. The purpose of the meeting was to intentionally galvanize white people to do civil rights work. Over 300 people showed up, and over 280 of the attendees were white. The focus was to highlight disparities the white community may not be aware of involving race. The director of the Civil Rights Museum, Bay Love, a white male, developed a presentation that exposes disparities amongst the African American population. The presentation exposes systemic racism and discussed potential solutions for such disparities. It taught the white audience to be aware and mindful of these current situations. As a department, there needs to be a focus on national issues within the commission and many conversations on hot topics can be facilitated by the commission.
- The Small is Big Conference focused on the establishment of "maker's spaces" in the city. A maker's space is a place entrepreneurs can go instead of creating an overhead to make these innovative ideas a product. The Force, Nussbaum center and the Co-lab are all examples of maker's space in Greensboro. Dr. Crossling expressed the need for the community to be aware of these spaces so that they can be utilized. The commissions can use subcommittees to spread the word of the maker's spaces and what they offer.
- Starting in September, the staff and Commission will start reporting to the commission liaison, Nancy Hoffman. This will be a bulleted report highlighting the important information.

ADJOURN

Chair Angus made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved at approximately 7:00 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date