



## Minutes

February 23, 2016

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Chair Deborah Goddard; *Commissioners:* Lindsay Burkart, Vickie Henry, Nancy Jimerson, Madison Lowe

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Human Relations Department Staff: Allen Hunt, Supervisor; Jodie Stanley, Education & Outreach Coordinator; Tony McCarty, Intern

Visitors: Darlinda Finch, Joan Tucker, Tiffany Dunlap, Kristina Edmondson, Miranda Reavis, Cindy Bratton

Excused Absences: *Commissioners:* Viola Fuller, Sade Nicholson

Absent: Jacqueline Foster, Christina Yongue

### I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

### III. Recognition of Visitors and Presentations

Chair Goddard recognized visitors from the community:

Joan Tucker with NC Works Career Center, formerly the Employment Security Commission, shared information about their work connecting employers and job seekers through the use of training, counseling and mentoring. They provide scholarships, career assessment and guidance, interview practice, resume and cover letter preparation, handle transportation and other logistics and even provide classes designed to equip trainees with skills in advanced manufacturing. Chair Goddard asked about services to assist those with a criminal record, and Ms. Tucker assured her that they are available in their main office, 303 N Raleigh St. Commissioners were invited to an event at Scuppernong's on March 10 from 5-7pm, and Ms. Tucker promised to send more information.

Tiffany Dunlap, MSW, Client Services Coordinator with the Greensboro Housing Authority was invited to speak. Ms. Dunlap is primarily responsible for the family self-sufficiency program as well as the homeownership program, and explained that the Head of Household enters into a contract of participation with the Greensboro Housing Authority. The contract contains an individual training and service plan that identifies the employment goal of the participant and outlines the activities/services necessary to achieve the goal. Staff works to obtain services such as childcare, transportation, education and counseling to support the family throughout the process. Allen Hunt discussed the difficulty of transitioning from dependence to independence. Ms. Dunlap elaborated on their focus to equip participants with skills necessary to succeed long-term, skills such as budgeting, money management and how to prepare for unexpected expenses. Ms. Dunlap clarified that you do not need to live in a particular housing development, all public housing and section 8 recipients are eligible for the program. More information on the program can be found at <http://www.gha-nc.org/residents/resident-programs/self-sufficiency.aspx>.

Darlinda Finch with GTCC's Small Business Center was introduced, and shared briefly about their efforts to support entrepreneurs' transition from crafts to cash, from idea to open, and open to grow. They are located at the Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship.

### IV. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard gave the Chair report (attached) which included details about her activity at the Women's Resource Center, involvement in Impact Greensboro focus groups on community issues, dialogues with Michelle Gill-Moffat with Parks and Recreation about a teen drinking initiative, and an invitation she received to serve as a panelist on upcoming panel at NC A&T School of Social Work.

#### Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson was not in attendance, no report given.

#### Health Committee

Commissioner Fuller was not in attendance, no report given.

#### Equality Committee

Commissioner Lowe shared her plans to partner with Darlinda Finch and Tiffany Dunlap to create a program that reaches out to women in Claremont Homes and the other subsidized housing communities. She did not have a lot to share about progress in plans for the Equality Day Breakfast, but stated that meetings would begin soon. She also shared about a mentoring program she wants to start at the Academy at Smith, partnering with several community members to provide guidance and support for about 30 interested young women. Dates are not set, it will take place as community partners are available.

#### Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner Burkart commented that she is looking into developing a meeting schedule for the DV Committee membership and program planning. She added that she has been working with Commissioner Yongue on the Black Girls Matter initiative. Commissioner Yongue has taken the lead on that, more information will be sent when it is available.

#### Services to the Aging

Commissioner Henry reminded commissioners about the upcoming 50+ Forum and asked commissioners to email their ideas, as well as the Fit to a T Event in June at the Senior Resource Center. She expressed her intent to attend the Mental Health forum on February 25.

#### Women Leading Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard advised that she will be working on a program similar to the City's Hire One program a few years ago, but focused on women and employment. She is working with Ashley Brooks and Lucy at the Women's Resource Center, who are willing to find job-eligible women that are ready to work, so the plan would be to find employers to match. The goal is to launch the program before college grads leave school.

### V. Staff Report

Jodie Stanley shared an update on the Housing and the International Community held on February 17. Commissioners who had attended the event agreed it was a success. Commissioners were invited to attend the Mental Health: Navigating Healthcare Systems event on February 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as a celebration in recognition of International Women's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm on the campus of UNCG.

VI. Announcements

Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter spoke about the newly created team of council members tasked with assessing all boards and commissions. They have been considering each board and commission, taking into consideration the difficulty of filling positions and taking into account the different historical reasons for the number of positions on the commission. She explained that while it may change, council is considering either decreasing or increasing the number of positions on the commissions. If they decrease the number of positions, those serving will not be removed until their term ends.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve January 2016 Minutes

Motion 1<sup>st</sup>: Commissioner Henry

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Jimerson

Unanimous approval

VIII. Adjournment (6:41 pm)

Motion to adjourn

Motion 1<sup>st</sup>: Commissioner Jimerson

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Lowe

Unanimous approval

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*Chairperson*  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*