



## Minutes

March 22, 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 the Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Chair Deborah Goddard; *Commissioners:* Jacqueline Foster, Vickie Henry, Nancy Jimerson

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley, Love Crossling

Visitors: Jackie King, Joyce Moran, Joyce Rice, Michelle Carello, and Cittaly Mora

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

Absent: Christina Yongue

### I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:03 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:

**Chair Goddard** recognized visitors **Michelle Carello**, who introduced herself as a representative of YouthSafe, an organization that offers safe, supportive space for LGBT youth. Youth from all over the Triad meet at Higher Ground (part of the Triad Health Project) and through peer to peer support, build community, reduce isolation, bolster resiliency, affirm their identities and get connected. Many LGBT youth, some from the foster system, have mental health needs and struggle with anxiety and isolation. Michelle emphasized that the work to strengthen youth is important, and you can't have the conversation without also talking about families. PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, is also doing important work around this same topic. Michelle explained that she is reaching out to groups like the Commission on the Status of Women in an effort to find out what else is happening in Greensboro, and to share their vision and work. She talked about the importance of knowing who is doing what, and where; connecting to existing resources, growing the coordinator base, and communicating throughout networks in an effort to provide more comprehensive community support and understanding.

Joyce Rice, personal finance specialist with Smart Benefits, introduced herself by sharing her education background and experience in communication studies and business. Smart Benefits is a new company focusing on financial literacy and wellness, starting with its own employees, reducing financial stress by enhancing financial wellness. Joyce stated that because it is more difficult for women to become established financially due to the fact that they are often caretakers and earn 20 cents less per dollar than men, she proposed partnering with the Commission on the Status of Women to create a financial literacy program. The program would teach women how to be strategic and proactive, covering concerns with Social Security, retirement, pension, and addressing unique challenges related to entrepreneurial endeavors. Joyce outlined her plan to partner with another agency to address cash flow, because if a stable income does not exist, budgeting information will not be useful.

Chair Goddard recognized Cittaly Mora with the High Point YWCA and Joyce Moran with the Guilford County court system.

### IV. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard gave the Chair report, encouraging consistent attendance and asking that commissioners submit monthly reports as a means of communicating with all members about their plans and activities. She shared her experiences being invited to be on the panel for the NCA&T School of Social Work panel, attending training in recognizing human trafficking, participation in a poverty simulation, attendance at the Latino Community Coalition meeting and a conversation with Catherine Johnson, director of the Guilford County Family Justice Center.

#### Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson was not in attendance, no report given.

#### Health Committee

Commissioner Fuller was not in attendance, no report given.

#### Equality Committee

In Commissioner Lowe's absence, Chair Goddard announced that the next planning meeting for the Women's Equality Day breakfast would be held during the next executive meeting on April 12.

#### Domestic Violence Committee

Chair Goddard announced that because Commissioner Burkart submitted her resignation, this committee would need a new chair. Commissioner Foster confirmed her interest in chairing this committee.

#### 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 also mentioned that she is working to revitalize the Vial of Life initiative.

#### Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard expressed her delight with her committee's successful meeting the night before, they had several new attendees and a great discussion. She said she would be reaching out to staff member Jodie Stanley soon to discuss her programming plans, which include a job creation effort/hire a woman project.

### V. Staff Report

Jodie Stanley reminded commissioners of the upcoming commission retreat, planned for either September 9 or 16. She also gave a financial report, sharing the Commission's available funds (totaling \$994.83), which needs to be spent before June 1, 2016. Jodie also confirmed the Commission's plans for the new table cloth they requested.

Love Crossling shared a reminder about the upcoming Fair Housing Luncheon, to be held April 14, rsvp date of April 11. She stressed the importance of joining the conversation about how important fair, affordable and quality housing is, and sharing this information with women.

Chair Goddard took a moment to recognize Human Relations Commissioner and visitor Jacqueline King, who spoke about the success of her recent program created to raise awareness about mental health and invited all present to the second in the four part series, to take place May

25. Commissioner Henry mentioned that she attended the first session and agreed that it was great.

VI. Announcements

Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter spoke about the newly created team of council members tasked with assessing all boards and commissions, and their recent decision to reduce the number of positions in the Commission on the Status of Women to 9, with the goal to make the number of appointments per council member the same. She added that all currently serving members would continue to serve their existing terms.

Love Crossling added that the Human Relations Commission was increased to 18 positions, because more commissioners are needed to do the work of the Police Community Review Board, support the International Advisory Committee, and now the Native American Committee. Love also shared that the Commission on the Status of Women was not the only commission to be reduced to 9 members.

VII. Approval of Minutes

There was not a quorum, minutes could not be approved.

VIII. Adjournment (6:48 pm)

Motion to adjourn

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

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

Unanimous approval

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*Chairperson*  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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