



## Minutes

January 26, 2015

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:09 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Chair Deborah Goddard; *Commissioners:* Lindsay Burkart; Christina Yongue; Sade Nicholson; Jacqueline Foster

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

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

Excused Absences: *Commissioners:* Viola Fuller; Nancy Jimerson; Vice Chair Madison Lowe

Absent: Vickie Henry

### I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

### 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:

Dr. Janine Jones from the UNCG Philosophy Department shared about a program to help young women, the program is based on the feminist theory of “Intersectionality” introduced by Kimberle Crenshaw, Professor of Law at the UCLA and Columbia Law School, through her groundbreaking work: “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”. Prof. Jones explained that a series of town halls are taking place all over the country that are specifically oriented to African American (AA) girls and women and that she would like to have a town hall in Greensboro based on this model and that she is looking for partners to support the event. She would like to have it in the International Civil Rights Museum. The African American Policy Forum is the main backer of the town hall and according to Prof. Jones requires at least four community partners to be confirmed prior to scheduling a town hall event. The way the town halls are structured where “black girls” are seated separately from “black women” in the event. The event is primarily attended by young women where they are given an opportunity to tell their personal stories about their experiences as adolescent AA females. Prof. Jones stated that she would like to see a reflective historical perspective included in the dialogue. Prof. Jones detailed potential community partners. Prof. Jones commented on “My Brother’s Keeper” national program through the White House. Prof. Jones detailed a lesson she learned from a book addressing the experiences of an AA female fictional figure.

Chair Goddard, Commissioner Yongue & Burkart dialogued about possible program applications and potential partnership opportunities related to CSW potentially partnering with Prof. Jones and the African American Policy Forum. Commissioner Hardy stated that she was willing to be the liaison for further dialogue about this opportunity after being asked by Chair Goddard. Chair Goddard expressed intent to revisit this opportunity at an upcoming CSW meeting.

Esther Idassi, Executive Director of Elimu Empowerment Services, was recognized by Chair Goddard. Elimu Empowerment Services advocates for increased understanding of refugees and other newcomers in the society. Participants are given the tools for enriching, expanding and strengthening their identities which in the long run enhance the living experience. Ms. Idassi commented on her long-time interest in the work of CSW. Ms. Idassi’s goal is to see how the CSW can assist her and her partner agencies (specifically mentions was American Friends Service Committee) in meeting the needs of immigrant women in the community. She advised that the opportunity is to organize an international women’s day focusing on the issues of inequality, gender issues and domestic violence. Chair Goddard commented that the Equality Committee would be a natural fit for this effort. March 8<sup>th</sup> is the International Women’s Day. Chair Goddard commented on Ms. Idassi’s interest in joining the CSW as a commissioner; stating that she would be a wonderful addition to the commission membership.

Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chair Zac Engle was recognized by Chair Goddard. Chair Engle introduced himself and commented on the partnership between the Commissions. He expressed enthusiasm for partnership opportunities that exist and are potential between them in the upcoming months. Chair Engle highlighted topics for collaboration: social justice, equity, and looking at domestic violence and human trafficking. Chair Engle thanked Chair Goddard and CSW for the invitation and their partnership. Chair Goddard thanked Chair Engle and advised that members of CSW would be reaching out to him and the HRC. Chair Goddard lightly-heartedly commented on the length of time allotted to speakers.

#### IV. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard welcomed committee reports and provided the Chair Report verbally. She detailed community engagements; highlighting her attendance at the League of Women Voters Luncheon, community engagement training, and various other formal and informal engagements, whereby she promoted CSW programming and opportunities. Chair Goddard advised that CSW is in a recruitment phase and reformation of sorts rebuilding its presence in the community. Chair Goddard commented that many visitors have been attending and continue to show up in CSW meetings. Chair Goddard recognized a visiting community member and received Committee Chair reports.

##### Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson stated that she has been active in the community. She shared that has been to a number of meetings. Her committee is planning a financial literacy program with local and nationally based financial institutions.

##### Health Committee

No report. Chair Goddard commented on the Fit 2 T program.

##### Equality Committee

No report. Chair Goddard commented on Women's Equality Day planning and preparation and goal setting.

##### Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner Burkart commented that she is looking into developing a meeting schedule for the Committee membership. Commissioner Burkart advised that her committee focus this year includes 'human trafficking'. Commissioner Burkart advised that she contacted Anna Melika and detailed that Ms. Melika is considered a potential partner/speaker on the subject of human trafficking. Commissioner Burkart also stated that she is in communication with Family Services of the Piedmont regarding partnership with her committee. Prof. Jones also commented a potential speaker who had been a victim of human trafficking that lived in Greensboro. Chair Engle and

Councilwoman Abuzuaiter advised on contacting the Executive Director Johnson from the Family Justice Center as great potential partner. Chair Engle advised on connecting with Legal Aid of North Carolina and getting advice on their services to victims of domestic violence.

#### Services to the Aging

n/a

#### Women Leading Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard advised that she will be focusing on development of her core team to support women in leadership positions in both private and civic sectors, which would impact economic development and employment opportunities. Chair Goddard highlighted that she will be meeting with a representative from the Women's Resource Center to talk about collaborative opportunities and pooling resources around these issues. Chair Goddard advised that she would be attending an Impact Greensboro forum on Economic Development. Chair Goddard advised that Commissioner Jimerson has already agreed to serve on this committee and meeting are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month from 6-7pm at the Benjamin Library.

#### V. Staff Report

Allen Hunt encouraged the Commissioners to develop macro and micro programmatic themes for the year to aid City staff to coordinate the partnerships and resources necessary to ensure the success of CSW programming, along with a focus on stakeholder volunteer recruitment.

Esther Idassi commented on her agency's efforts around educating immigrant women on domestic violence. Commissioner Nicholson shared about the CARES program, which brings people together around the issue of domestic violence and promoting open communication.

#### VI. Announcements

Commissioner Yongue shared about an event on February 2, 2016 at the YWCA, on breast cancer and health disparities affecting women. Commissioner Yongue is the guest speaker at the event and she will be sharing from her academic research on the subject.

Chair share about Gwen McAllister and her organization, Womens Workforce Web. This organization was formed by retired teachers who train economically challenged women and pair them with underachieving students in public schools. Womens Workforce Web is recruiting academic mentors for their program. They can be reached via the web or at (336) 370-4687.

Commissioner Yongue shared that a two day racial equity training/workshop. The workshop highlights the history of racism and solution development.

Chair Engle and Marikay Abuzuaiter shared about the “Doing Our Work” meeting taking place on February 1, 2016 at the UCC Church on Radiance Drive.

Commissioner Foster announced her presence and acceptance of her appointment. Quorum was established.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve December 2015 Minutes

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

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

Unanimous approval

\* Chair Goddard asked Councilwoman Abuzuaiter to share about her role. Councilwoman Abuzuaiter shared highlights of her role and goal of supporting the work of the Commission.

\* Commissioner commented on liaison role of Councilwoman Abuzuaiter with the HRC.

VIII. Adjournment (7:08pm)

Motion to adjourn

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

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

Unanimous approval

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*Chairperson*  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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