



Minutes

May 24, 2016

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:05 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Henry, Jimerson, Fuller, Lowe

Council Liaison:

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley

Visitor: Brenda White, Shay Johnson, Bernetta Thigpen

Absent: Commissioners Yongue, Nicholson, Foster

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 and thanked them for coming.

Chair Goddard invited visitor Shay Johnson to share about her initiative, Pampers and Pumps. Johnson started by saying that in 2013, she had a daughter and used her maternity leave to develop her brand, Pampers and Pumps, designed to encourage and empower women, and celebrate motherhood. Johnson offered a few examples of the programming she was currently involved with, including the 12 week Back to Me Series co-sponsored by the YWCA, which would cover self-love, self-worth, relationships and building a brand, as well as a Sip and Paint event at Wine and Design. Johnson clarified that her brand was all about rebuilding women from the inside out and teaching them the difference between perception and reality.

Chair Goddard asked if her program was only for mothers. Johnson replied by saying that while they accepted support from all, the brand was created to support mothers. Commissioner Henry asked if Pampers and Pumps was a certified 501-C3. Johnson's response indicated that they were in the beginning phases of applying for non-profit status. Commissioners expressed their support and general admiration for her efforts and hard work. Commissioner Henry asked another clarifying question about possibly expanding to a teen population. Johnson stated that she had given it some thought, that the long term goal was to create a home, a place to rebuild and become equipped to go back into the community. Chair Goddard thanked Johnson for speaking.

Brenda White joined the group and introduced herself as a retiree from the City and motivational speaker and advocate for domestic violence victims. She spoke at the opening of the Guilford Family Justice Center and was currently serving on the Women Through Leadership subcommittee, chaired by Chair Goddard.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard gave the Chair report, sharing that she had continued to be very active in the community. Goddard mentioned a survey sent through the Department of Public Health that got many responses indicating the need for lunch and learns. She was exploring further partnership with the Department of Public Health.

Goddard also shared updates from the Commission Leadership Retreat, starting with the discussion around assessing subcommittees for productivity and efficiency, suggesting that it might be fruitful to condense some of the less active subcommittees. She added that commissioners could look forward to a simplified reporting process; questions would be in an email that they could simply reply to. Hot topics and important issues were also covered during the leadership retreat, and discussion was held around a possible August 13 general commission retreat. Goddard directed commissioners' attention to a printed document in their folders outlining the new attendance policy as directed by Council (three absences per rolling 12 month time period), and explained the simplified program proposal form.

Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner Foster was not in attendance, no report given.

Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson was not in attendance, no report given.

Women and Equality Committee

Commissioner Lowe shared general updates about the Women's Equality Day Breakfast planning, general discussion was held around the prices of décor, and she confirmed that thank you letters would be sent to program participants after the event.

Lowe mentioned that she had secured a jazz musician to play for the breakfast. Since the Polk Duo had already been secured, general discussion was held around whether they should have two musicians perform during the breakfast. Lowe expressed her preference to have only one performer, that with timing, space, and logistics, it would be too much to accommodate two groups. Lowe confirmed that she would follow up with the musician she made contact with to ascertain his needs, and that she would follow up with commissioners after communicating with him.

Chair Goddard showed the commissioners the purple promotional pens that were ordered for the breakfast, and updated the group on panelists, stating that Kathy Hinshaw had not responded to the invitation to serve on the panel, and that Kathy Harrelson from Leadership CONNECTIONS was interested and available. Goddard mentioned that Harrelson suggested that a young lady who went through the Leadership CONNECTIONS program take her place and share her story of success, but commissioners agreed that they would prefer that Harrelson serve on the panel.

Commissioner Jimerson offered to follow up on décor and invited all available to go with her to do the shopping.

Jimerson also stated that she was waiting on a final commitment from the suggested moderator, Arnetta Beverly, reassuring commissioners that if Beverly was unable to service, she had someone else in mind for the position.

Commissioner Fuller took a moment to model the scarves, a potential gift idea for the panelists donated by Jimerson. Staff member Jodie Stanley was asked to bring several of the CSW promo travel mugs to the next meeting to add to the gift bags for the panelists.

Chair Goddard thanked Commissioners for their input and hard work on the Women's Equality Day Breakfast planning.

Health Committee

Commissioner Fuller updated the group on her participation in the event with Pace of the Triad, adding that it was a success and well attended. Participants enjoyed themselves, the event was

informational and offered excellent networking opportunities. CSW gift bags prepared by Jodie Stanley were raffled off. As in the last monthly meeting, Fuller mentioned the possibility of partnering with the National Council of Negro Women on a blood drive, adding that African American blood was more compatible for sickle cell patients.

Fuller also mentioned Jennifer Revels and the potential for partnership with the Fit to a T program, partnering with the Native American Committee for the event in June, but she understood that the family had been going through a difficult time with the loss of a loved one and wanted to offer the family a respectful space and time to grieve. Commissioner Henry asked if the NAC would be interested in being part of the 50+ Forum. Fuller advised that she was unable to attend the 50+ Forum and was looking at a later date in June for a partnership.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Henry agreed with Fuller that the Pace of the Triad event was a big success, adding that the Vial of Life bags were popular. She described the fun they had while participating in the line dance, and the benefits of networking and gaining additional vendors for the 50+ Forum.

Henry announced that Fit to a T would be featured from 10 – 11 am on June 9 at the 50+ Forum. She stated that she was still working out vendors but had about 25 so far. She asked for volunteers to man the CSW table for the event. Commissioner Jimerson stated that she planned to be there and would help.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard shared her excitement about a great planning meeting for her upcoming program on Thursday, September 21. She stated that NC Works had been extremely supportive of her efforts, and that the program was designed with 4 preliminary classes leading up to a big employment fair, that all ‘graduates’ of the classes would receive a VIP pass to the fair. The CSW’s role in the program would be to provide refreshments while NC Works was providing the space and contacts. All seemed very excited about the program and loved working with the committee.

Goddard explained that whenever a contact came to her through the website, she, in turn, asked them to reach out directly to the commissioner that was doing work most in line with their interest and area of volunteerism. Commissioner Fuller asked what type of information was posted online. Goddard stated that names, phone numbers and addresses were posted on the online roster. Fuller requested that her email address be removed from the list, as it had previously been hacked and she was very uncomfortable leaving it out for the public to access.

Commissioner Lowe asked if the Human Relations Commission from High Point was being invited to events. Staff member Jodie Stanley stated that they were invited to the Fair Housing Luncheon and were on the invitation list for the Women’s Equality Day Breakfast.

V. Staff Report

Jodie Stanley reminded commissioners about the Mental Health: Navigating Education Systems event to take place the following day, and asked commissioners to forward requested corrections to the CSW roster.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Fuller

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Jimerson

Unanimous approval

VI. Announcements

Commissioner Henry asked if the commission had ever settled on an image for the WED Breakfast flyer. Chair Goddard stated that yes, an image had been selected. Goddard then welcomed additional visitors to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves and speak.

Bernetta Thigpen, regional director of the North Carolina Council of Women, a division of the Department of Administration, introduced herself as a consultant for the State of NC on issues such as domestic violence. She said that she had been invited to the meeting by Commissioner Foster, and pointed out that they had mentioned Katherine Harrelson earlier – Thigpen explained that she currently held the position that Harrelson vacated. Thigpen applauded the commission on their choice of Harrelson as panelist, as Harrelson was very knowledgeable and knew the history of equity in Greensboro.

Goddard asked if Thigpen knew Catherine Johnson, director of the Guilford Family Justice Center. Thigpen stated that she not only knew Johnson, NCCW was a funding agent for the Justice Center. Thigpen went on to stress the importance of making sure that agencies were well-versed in evidence-based practice, operating not just on hearsay but on studied data.

Commissioner Fuller mentioned that she had called Thigpen the year before, and Thigpen had attended a lunch and learn at the public library.

Goddard thanked Thigpen for coming to the CSW meeting, adding that it was great to see her. She asked if Thigpen would be willing to share her contact information. Thigpen can be reached at bernetta.thigpen@doa.nc.gov, or by phone at 336-288-8650.

Thigpen encouraged all commissioners to be aware of Violence to the Elderly Month in June, adding that while the more well known Domestic Violence Awareness Month was coming up in October, we should all be aware of it, all the time.

Goddard thanked all present for attending, encouraging them by saying that while they were a small group, they were able to achieve a lot as a team. She stated her gratitude for their commitment to the CSW.

VIII. Adjournment (7:20 pm)

Motion to adjourn

Motion 1st: Commissioner Fuller

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Henry

Unanimous approval

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date