



Minutes

June 28, 2016

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:02 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Henry, Jimerson, Lowe, Jasper-Morant, Foster, White

Council Liaison:

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley

Visitor: Lena Murrill-Chapman, Evelyn Fernandez

Absent: Commissioners Yongue, Nicholson, Fuller

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Evelyn Fernandez to introduce herself. Fernandez stated that she had lived in Greensboro for three and a half years and was thankful to Jackie Foster for inviting her.

Chair Goddard invited visitor Lena Murrill-Chapman to introduce herself. Murrill-Chapman shared that she was a longtime resident of Greensboro, retired educator, affiliated with various women's organizations, and expressed her strong desire to support and help women in Greensboro.

Chair Goddard thanked the visitors for attending, and turned her attention to welcoming the two newly appointed commissioners, Brenda White and Joyce Jasper-Morant, and asked them to share a little about themselves. Jasper-Morant began by saying that she had lived in Greensboro for about 12 years, worked in court system, and that she was here to learn more, and do more. White, a retiree of the City, stated that she became a strong advocate for women in domestic violence situations after she was assaulted and stabbed by her then husband. She emphasized her desire to do more great work with the partnership of the Commission.

Goddard praised commissioners for their strategic recruiting efforts and welcomed the new commissioners to the group.

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 about 50 responses indicating the need for lunch and learns and marketing for the CSW, as most respondents were unaware of the Commission. She directed commissioners' attention to the printed report in their folders for remaining information on her report.

Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner Foster shared that she was in the process of figuring out next steps; she had spoken with Commissioner White and Evelyn Fernandez and Commissioner Jasper-Morant. She expressed that based on her interviews and phone calls, there did not seem to be concern or awareness from local law enforcement or the DA's office about human trafficking, but she still felt that it was a problem that needed to be addressed. Director Love Crossling suggested that it might be a matter of revisiting and broadening the definition of human trafficking and stressed the importance of awareness-raising. White added that people often didn't know what human trafficking was. Foster stated that it was her desire to work on a women's forum in October, that she wanted Greensboro to see that we cared about domestic violence issues. She encouraged commissioners to pass along ideas for speakers, mentioning that Fantasia Barrino was a good candidate for a speaker and that she was following up with her agent. Phaedra Sparks was another speaker that Foster had followed up with. Crossling suggested that they assemble a list of potential speakers and offered that staff could assist with vetting and other support needs.

Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson was not in attendance, no report given.

Women and Equality Committee

Commissioner Lowe stated that the upcoming Women's Equality Day Breakfast was the only thing on the committee's agenda.

Chair Goddard asked about panel questions, advising that she would send a few suggestions and request feedback via email.

Commissioner Lowe added that Titus, on the schedule to do the musical entertainment, would be performing solo. Lowe asked if two musicians were needed for the event. Commissioners agreed that if both were able, Titus would play at the beginning to set the tone, and the Polk Duo would play later in the program.

Chair Goddard thanked Commissioner Jimerson for handling décor and buying the items. Jimerson shared samples of the décor, which included an arrangement that was purple and silver and included candles. Crossling offered the use of sand-filled cylinders which were used at the fair housing event. Commissioner Jimerson offered a brief description of the gifts bags for panelists/speakers. Jodie Stanley added that tickets and invitations were printed and ready to be mailed, and the online payment system was set up.

Health Committee

Commissioner Fuller was not in attendance, no report given.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Henry directed their attention to the 50+ Forum evaluation that she had passed out, and read through the evaluation. She advised that this was her last year to organize the event, that it was her desire to pass it along to someone else that would want to continue it the following year. Henry added that she had attended the Elder Abuse Walk in Kernersville on June 18, encouraging all commissioners to attend the annual event the following year. For record keeping purposes, Crossling asked about 50+ Forum attendance. Henry responded that about 70 people attended the event this year.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard shared her excitement about the upcoming Higher Opportunities for Women (preparatory workshops and job fair) event on September 17 and 21, adding that someone new was joining the planning committee each week. She thanked Commissioners White and Jimerson for their support and expressed gratitude for visitors that just wanted to help. Goddard added that she was interested in reporting the number of hires that result from the job fair.

Goddard then expressed a desire to start planning lunch and learns for the Health Department staff members, sharing that former CSW visitor Joyce Rice was interested in helping with a financial literacy piece for either the lunch and learns, or for the community in general. She encouraged commissioners that were interested in working with Rice to submit a proposal form to Jodie Stanley. Goddard asked Love Crossling if it was necessary to vote on the topic of a potential partnership with Joyce Rice. Crossling responded that a vote was not necessary, but it was good practice to open it up for conversation in case there were concerns. Goddard encouraged commissioners to share their thoughts on the possibility of a financial literacy program. Starting with an affirmative comment from Commissioner Jimerson, all expressed general agreement in moving forward with plans for a financial literacy program.

V. Staff Report

Love Crossling reminded commissioners about the Commission Retreat scheduled for Saturday, August 13. Topics that would be covered during the retreat included perspective about responsibilities, programming expectations, outreach and education expectations, and ideation and visioning. Crossling encouraged commissioners to come prepared to think about future goals, adding that the retreat would include breakout sessions, messages from leadership, and brainstorming across the commissions.

Crossling also announced the Triad Commission Retreat would take place in Winston Salem on Friday, July 29 at the Innovation Quarter, adding that the address would be sent by staff later. The focus of this retreat was to network and be part of a larger think tank. Last year it was suggested that all three cities could host a joint retreat. Crossling encouraged interested commissioners to RSVP to staff by July 8; a headcount was needed by the hosts because they were providing food.

Crossling went on to say that the past year, Human Relations coordinated a four part series on housing that covered specific family types and people such as international communities, families with children, and LGBT populations. She suggested that the Commission consider a program or series that would raise awareness about fair housing for single mothers, who are most often are the target of sexual harassment. Crossling encouraged those interested in continuing this series to contact her, that it was a potential opportunity to partner with Allen Hunt, Fair Housing Administrator and the Human Relations Commission's Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee.

Chair Goddard asked staff members Love Crossling and Jodie Stanley to introduce themselves and explain their roles to the new commissioners. Stanley stated that while she had worked for the City for ten years, the role of Outreach and Education Coordinator and specifically, Commission Management, was new to her. She added that the importance of the work was very motivating for her and she was looking forward to many great things coming out of the

Commission. Crossling introduced herself as the Director of Human Relations, responsible for both internal and external relations. Crossling stated that she counted it a privilege to work closely with commissioners who volunteered with such passion.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the May Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Henry

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Lowe

Unanimous approval

VI. Announcements

Commissioner Foster expressed an apology for her absence at the last meeting, while having invited Bernetta Thigpen. All commissioners thanked Foster and expressed their understanding for having to miss the meeting, and their appreciation for the valuable connection.

Chair Goddard announced that she was reappointed to the commission.

Commissioner Jimerson announced that Arnetta Beverly was unable to moderate the Women's Equality Day Breakfast, but she was able to secure another moderator in Reverend Phyllis Coates. Commissioners thanked Jimerson for her work in securing a moderator.

Commissioner Henry announced that she was now married and that her last name was changed to Hughes. Commissioners expressed congratulations and staff member Jodie Stanley agreed to follow up with the name change.

Jodie Stanley announced the upcoming session in the Mental Health Awareness Series, Mental Health, Police and Public Safety to take place on July 27 at 5 pm at the Greensboro Historical Museum.

VIII. Adjournment (7:04 pm)

Motion to adjourn

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jimerson

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Unanimous approval

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date