



Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017

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 Arts Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Jasper-Morant, White, Sevier, Lucas-Patrick, Foster

Absent: Commissioner Hughes, Jimerson

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

HRC Liaison: Samuel Hawkins

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley, Love Crossling

Visitors: Dotti DuLaney, Itane Coleman, Madison Sampson, Calvin Phillips

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Madison, a graduate student at UNCG and founder of browngirlFEARLESS, explained that browngirlFEARLESS is a group designed to empower women to approach life with fearlessness. Her past experience with Governor McCrory's office brought her to a point where she was navigating being a woman of color, and she wanted to do something empower others. She established a blog, which covered everything from politics, hair, health and fitness, in addition to a community outreach arm. Their first outreach event was held over the past year and reached about 200 families.

Itane expressed gratitude for Jodie Stanley's help in connecting them to CSW and expressed a strong desire to support the work of the Commission and to partner to empower women in Greensboro and improve the lives of women in the community.

Chair Goddard expressed her gratitude for their energy and ideas and for speaking to the CSW.

Love Crossling inquired about the student's availability moving forward. Madison Sampson shared that they were not connected to UNCG through browngirlFEARLESS, so their role as students would not necessarily affect their availability. Crossling asked if they planned to stay in the area over the summer. Sampson replied that she would probably be available and in the area, but she had other plans that may come to fruition. Itane Coleman replied that she planned to be available in the summer.

Photographer and supporter Calvin Phillips shared his information, adding that he was a sponsor of browngirlFEARLESS.

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick asked for clarity on the blogging. Sampson responded that she recruited writers, most often women of color, and that it was her preference to provide a variety of perspectives.

Commissioner Sevier asked how people were finding out about browngirlFEARLESS. Sampson replied by saying that it was mostly social media marketing but they were proactively networking wherever possible.

Chair Goddard thanked them for coming and sharing their efforts, and asked if Crossling would want to share her staff report before she had to leave.

V. Staff Report

Love Crossling reminded commissioners about the upcoming retreat on April 8 and asked commissioners to sign up for their preferred boxed lunch. She encouraged commissioners to come to the retreat with an open mind, with ideas they would like addressed during the retreat.

She shared that the IAC election was a major success, totaling 540 voters, and that the Chair, Franca Jalloh, was a strong member of the community and a previous CSW attendee.

Chair Goddard asked, for clarity, if it was a requirement that staff was present at all planned CSW events. Crossling advised that while it depended on the event, the presence of staff was for the purpose of support, not a requirement. Goddard offered the example of a medical awareness event, where speakers would share information. Crossling responded by saying no, in that example, it wasn't a requirement. Considerations needing staff included logistics and coordinating, event topics of a political nature, when media might be present, when the event would attract Council Members or City leadership who may have input or questions, and needing support. Jodie Stanley added that it was important to continue to communicate for scheduling and other logistical purposes, and Crossling finished by saying that informing staff would also allow staff to properly inform Council of upcoming events.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard shared her report, starting with an announcement that the meeting was being recorded. She shared that she attended the Breaking the Glass Ceiling event and that it was very good, including speakers Marikay Abuzuaiter, who talked about being genuine and shared her story about getting involved in politics. Barbara Harris also spoke about leadership and her journey, and Sue Schwartz acknowledged the difference between feedback and criticism.

Goddard announced that she had been invited to Raleigh to speak to a larger group of Commissioners on the Status of Women. The goal of the meeting was to inspire other counties to start their own commission and to encourage those doing the work.

Goddard encouraged commissioners to attend the commission retreat, adding that it allowed the opportunity to learn more and to interface with commissioners from the Human Relations Commission.

Crossling inserted an apology on behalf of Council Member Abuzuaiter for not attending, that she had been advised by her doctor not to attend. She regretted not attending but asked Crossling to pass along her best wishes.

Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner White expressed an apology for her tardiness, and thanked all for attending the Tears that Watered the Flowers event, saying that she had received a lot of good feedback. White shared that her committee had not yet met but would let the commission know when they met and what they planned to do.

Education Committee

Chair position was vacant.

Women and Equality Committee

Commissioner and Vice Chair Jimerson was absent. Goddard asked for an update on her health. White shared that she was doing well, was walking, thankful for the cards and well wished, and was accepting visitors and hoped to see the commissioners.

Health Committee

Commissioner Sevier stated that she was still in the process of assessing where there was work to be done, but she was considering creating an event or initiative around self-advocacy and their own health.

Chair Goddard asked to make an announcement about the newest commissioner, Michelle Lucas-Patrick, and welcomed her to the commission.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Jasper-Morant shared that the committee was almost finished planning the event. The committee had a meeting on the previous Friday, the program and flyer were finalized, and logistics were coming together well. Food donations were yet to be secured, but she invited all present to attend the program on April 22 from 9:30 – 12.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard shared that their next event, scheduled for May 20, was in the process of being planned. Charmaine Davis, an activist who was successful in changing legislature in Georgia, planned to be in attendance and NC Works had a list of businesses who were favorable towards hiring people with criminal backgrounds. Goddard announced that session two of WorkSmart would take place on June 12 at Congregational United Church of Christ at 400 W Radiance Dr.

Goddard finished with an announcement about an event on September 19, geared towards a younger working group of women, to encourage, inspire and provide the tools to succeed in their professional lives.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Motion 2nd: Commissioner White

Unanimous approval

VII. Announcements

Chair Goddard announced that she had reached out to the coordinator of the Deaf Women of Color event.

Commissioner Sevier announced a “Sisters” breast health event scheduled for June 24. She described the organizers as women of color who were promoting awareness about breast cancer. Sevier promised to pass along information as it was available.

Goddard thanked rosters Quanisha Collins and Dotti DuLaney for their support of the commission.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Motion 2nd: Commissioner White

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date