



Meeting Minutes
September 26, 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 101H at the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

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

Absent: Commissioner White

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

HRC Liaison: Samuel Hawkins

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley

Visitors: Karen Rhodes, Cynthia Stubbs, Franca Jalloh

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. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Cynthia Stubbs from Zeta Phi Beta introduced herself and explained that she was there to learn what the CSW did for the community. She had attended the breakfast and was very complimentary of the event. Chair Goddard thanked her for coming. Karen Rhodes introduced herself.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard announced the women's tribute, formerly called the women's memorial, which was a work in progress scheduled for completion in November. So far, CSW was slated to have completed eight programs by the end of October, which was exciting. She noted that she was aware that a new appointment was pending. She would share more information as it was available.

Domestic Violence Committee:

Chair Goddard asked Jodie Stanley to provide an update on the upcoming Purple Tree Lighting event, noting that it was at 6 pm, not 6:30 pm as previously advertised. Stanley noted that it was the third year, and she covered the design of the program and its purpose.

Education Committee:

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick stated that she was still in the process of contacting potential committee members, including Laura Tew with AAUW, who had also asked if Lucas-Patrick would become an official member of AAUW. Chair Goddard advised that the AAUW was hosting a pay equity event at October 5 at the Women's Resource Center.

Women and Equality Committee :

Chair Goddard stated that the breakfast was a success, and that out of the 141 evaluations, all were positive. One comment noted the length but the program ended earlier than expected. The speaker was well received and the new format got positive feedback. Those who left contact information for follow up were passed along to committee chairs for follow up.

Health Committee:

Commissioner Sevier stated that she would defer to Jasper-Morant, as they agreed that their committees needed to partner on upcoming initiatives.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Jasper-Morant stated that she and Commissioner Sevier were planning a meeting on October 11 to coordinate a program that would serve young and elderly women, providing information on how to advocate for their health care, types of questions to ask, etc. They did not yet have the details for the program, but would discuss it with the committee and come back to the commission with a plan.

Sevier added that something they had discussed was if they created a program like this, there needed to be a way that younger people could also advocate for their aging parents and family members, and teaching aging community members to advocate for their own care. They were considering a program in the Spring.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard stated that their next event was scheduled for October 10, the same night of the executive meeting, which could be canceled if the commission was agreeable. All agreed to cancel the executive meeting. Lucas-Patrick asked if there was a deadline to order the food. Stanley stated that the food order would be placed the day before the event. Goddard stated that there were about 50 people registered, that there might be consideration in the future to do a similar program for women over 40.

Chair Goddard invited new arrival Commissioner Dorley to introduce herself. Dorley stated her excitement to join the commission, that she had been watching the emails going back and forth, and it seemed that there was a lot of great work happening.

Franca Jalloh introduced herself as the Chair of the International Advisory Committee, expressed her desire to collaborate and strengthen relationships. Chair Goddard thanked her for coming and taking the initiative to attend.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling started by thanking the Commission for the incredible work they were doing, noting that their evolution over the past year was impressive. She noted that it was indicative of their teamwork and commitment to the community, and the connections that commissioners had taken the time to establish in the community. Attendance at the breakfast had almost doubled, and Crossling noted that the credit was due to their hard work. The energy of the commissioners on that day was also impressive – they were busy working, setting up, staying around to collect items, and they were a fine representation of what a commission was and should be.

She announced several upcoming events, including the commission retreat which would be developed based on the feedback given by the commissioners – it would be a half day, commissioner-facilitated and driven. She noted the retreat planning meeting on October 11 at the Green Bean at 9 am, and that those who were not able to attend the planning meeting were welcome to submit feedback via email. Notes would be sent to the commission to follow up after the planning meeting. She stated that staff looked forward to this new model and what would come of it.

On October 12, Thrive GSO was hosting a voting lunch & learn focused on voting, reentry and civic engagement, considering the voices of those experiencing reentry and offering hope to those with criminal records. How many of the leaders being voted in considered the needs of those experiencing reentry? She noted that this was part of Thrive’s community readiness series, which was designed to equip those who provided support services with the information and network they needed to provide the best services to the clients, encouraging them to become active community members and stakeholders.

In regards to the IAC’s October 20 event, Love offered Franca the opportunity to speak to that. Franca noted that the focus was on education equity, and that they also addressed concerns about DACA, especially in light of the fact that legislature had just changed. Dreamers were very concerned about their status and it was important to acknowledge their concern and address fears and raise awareness. Then Council Member Abuzuaiter spoke in support of Welcoming America and Greensboro’s pride in being an official Welcoming City, cake was shared. Difficult questions were broached and it was an opportunity for community members to consider which elected leadership they would vote for.

Franca asked if Council Member Abuzuaiter wanted to add anything. Abuzuaiter stated that it was a good event, she’d want to see it done again, it seemed well organized.

Crossling closed the staff report with a mention of the possibility of partnering with the HRC Montgomery Wells Committee in addressing new laws that impacted victims of domestic violence in finding housing, and that staff was available if the commission wanted to pursue that topic.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the August Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Lucas-Patrick

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Unanimous approval

Election Committee

Commissioner Sevier noted that it was time to elect a chair and vice chair for the Commission, noting that she had called for nominations. She directed their attention to the ballot that was in the folder, pointing out that Chair Goddard was nominated to serve another term and Commissioner Jasper-Morant was nominated as Vice Chair. Sevier asked if all felt comfortable with the qualifications of those nominated or if they wanted to hear more. All agreed that they felt comfortable.

Commissioner Foster apologized for her late arrival, stating that she was taking part in a training out of town.

Sevier counted votes and announced the unanimous results. She congratulated chair Goddard and Vice Chair Jasper-Morant for being elected. Chair Goddard thanked the commission for their show of support. Jalloh congratulated them. Chair Goddard welcomed HRC Chair Hawkins on his election as well and thanked him for coming. Chair Goddard thanked staff for their support.

Chair Goddard announced that the following night she would be speaking to the Junior League on matters of aging. Dr. Crossling offered her support and thanks for commissioners taking platforms, noting that they had been thoughtful and strategic about networking and ensuring that they were supporting the work of others in the community. Chair Goddard thanked Dr. Crossling, agreeing that it was necessary and saying that she was still encountering people that did not know about the Commission.

She noted that the League of Women Voters were hosting a luncheon on October 16 for the candidates that made it past the primaries. Jada Monica Drew had shared information that Goddard would forward, and Goddard asked Stanley to share about the Hidden Epidemic flyer that was passed out.

Crossling asked for an update on the Men Can Cook event. Goddard noted that visitor Cynthia was in attendance at the event, that it was often well-known men that volunteered to cook, samples were offered of their cooking, and an auction took place. The event was a success and a great cause.

HRC Chair Hawkins remembered that one of the commissioners had mentioned doing a caregiver event. Mt. Zion had a caregiver group and he was happy to forward the contact information to the CSW commissioner that might be able to use it. Sevier added that she had spoken to them the month previous but would appreciate any information he could pass along.

Jalloh announced that the next IAC meeting would be canceled in lieu of supporting the upcoming International Community Candidate Forum on October 18 at 6 pm. Lucas-Patrick announced that the Hidden Figures author would be speaking at Guilford College in a few days.

Crossling added that she wanted to extend a formal apology about the confusion surrounding the media representative at the Women's Equality Day Breakfast, stating that she spoke to the representative with the understanding that he was waiting to speak to Jada Monica Drew. He asked Dr. Crossling to provide a few sound bytes and she agreed, assuming he had already contacted commissioners to speak. She stated that it was never her intention to disrespect commissioners in any way, and noted that in the future she would be intentional about ensuring that commissioners had already been contacted/interviewed.

Lucas-Patrick noted that it might be helpful to receive training on how to interact with the media. Crossling noted that typical protocol was for media reps to go through staff to learn who they should speak with, what types of questions would be asked, etc. With the commission retreat coming up, it could be considered to incorporate media training in the retreat. Lucas-Patrick noted that at times, media had a different agenda and was very direct and that the experience could be unnerving. Crossling stated that that was why staff preferred to know who was coming and what questions might be asked, offering that with the MLK Breakfast event media was much more proactive about notifying staff ahead of time.

Chair Goddard noted that Commissioner White had been approached by a community member and deferred the questions to Chair Goddard, as she felt more comfortable.

HRC Chair Samuel Hawkins announced that ICRM was hosting an event featuring Langston Hughes on October 10.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner Sevier

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Foster

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date