



Meeting Minutes

August 22, 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 White, Lucas-Patrick, Jasper Morant, Hughes, Goddard, Sevier

Absent: Commissioner Foster, Dorley

Council Liaison:

HRC Liaison: Samuel Hawkins

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley

Visitors: Karen Rhodes

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

Chair Goddard welcomed everyone and invited visitors to introduce themselves and share a little about who they were. Nayamka Farrelly introduced herself as a leadership and life coach that wanted to add value to the Commission and their work. Goddard shared that they would be working together on the LeadHerShip event coming up on October 10.

Karen Rhodes introduced herself as a prior visitor, explaining that she hadn't attended a meeting in months but was trying to catch up with the Commission and learn how she could support and help. Goddard thanked her for coming and encouraged her to get involved.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard shared that she was still doing outreach work trying to raise visibility for the commission. She stated that she had been approached by a member with the Junior League and invited to speak at an event in September. The connection with the Junior League's focus this year was with aging populations. Goddard also shared that the AAUW had selected dates for their next pay equity events, the first being October 5 at the Women's Resource Center at 3:30 pm.

Goddard announced that Commissioner Lucas-Patrick had agreed to chair the Education Committee. She was well connected, pursuing her masters, and Goddard expressed her full support of her role as chair.

Commissioner Hughes asked if the October 5 event was related to pay equity. Goddard said yes and promised to send the rest of the dates out to the commission. She knew the next date selected was January 18. She expressed gratitude for the AAUW's partnership, as they were fully supportive but the only commitment was marketing at this time.

Domestic Violence Committee:

Commissioner White shared that she had recently accepted a Davidson County Women's Shelter as a Shelter Manager. All congratulated her.

Chair Goddard asked if there were additional plans for the Purple Tree Lighting. Jodie Stanley shared that there had been a request to purchase lights, because last year's lights presented as more pink than purple. If the Commission wanted to purchase more lights, they could do so with the funds left over from the breakfast, but they would need to consider whether that was the best use of their funds. Crossling stated that the difficulty was in purchasing the lights online, they presented as purple. Staff hoped to purchase lights in person to ensure that they were purple. White stated that she would check a local store and see if they carried purple lights. Stanley asked if the Commission was in agreement to spend any funds carried over from the Women's Equality Day Breakfast to cover the cost of the lights. Goddard stated that the lights needed to be purple, because the color was so critical to the event. Crossling shared that they may want to wait to decide whether to use the funds in this manner until after the event. Sevier agreed, noting that the Commission struggled to come up with an adequate honorarium to cover the cost of the speaker. All were in agreement that it would be best to wait until the executive meeting to decide what they wanted to do.

Education Committee:

Chair Goddard thanked Lucas-Patrick for being willing to serve as the Chair of the Education Committee and invited Lucas-Patrick to share. Lucas Patrick shared that it was her desire to coordinate a forum to encourage women to take the next step, gaining support from local colleges to support women in their desire to 'make it happen.'

Women and Equality Committee :

Chair Goddard announced that the Chair was vacant, but the breakfast was scheduled for the coming Saturday. About 250 had paid, the program was set, confirmations were received from the Girl Scouts and

the Bennett College volunteers. Set up on Friday was scheduled for 4pm on Friday, August 25. Goddard reminded all commissioners that all were expected to help set up and tear down, but that all details seemed to be in order and ready for Saturday. Crossling pointed out that they had more tables to set up this time than last year. If the department's table décor items were needed, the Commission was welcome to use them. Crossling offered her cell number as a point of contact. Commissioner White expressed her thanks for the offer and shared that her plans were to stagger the decorations on each table to ensure that it looked even and intentional. Goddard also announced that Commissioner White was willing to cover the book table for the speaker, Jada Monica Drew. Commissioner Hughes asked about the choir and where they were sitting. Stanley shared that the choir would be seated at tables 8 and 9.

Lucas-Patrick asked if sponsor contact information as ever solicited. Crossling stated that staff had an existing list, and new members were added each year at the request of the Commission. Stanley suggested that a question be added to the survey asking if their agency might want to be approached for sponsorship at the next breakfast. All agreed, and Goddard added that recognitions would be blanket and cover everyone, not specifically, to prevent leaving anyone out and offending any party not mentioned by name.

Goddard confirmed that the CSW brochures and the evaluations would be on the tables. Stanley confirmed. Goddard encouraged commissioners to read through the brochure in an effort to prepare for questions that might arise.

Health Committee:

Commissioner Sevier announced that she and Commissioner Jasper-Morant would be attending the upcoming International Opioid Awareness Day event to honor people that had overcome addictions, people and families that were dealing with it, and those that had passed because of it. She had discussed partnering with ADS to partner on a medicine disposal program around the City, and with that, provide information on how to advocate for themselves when it came to their health. She was also going to approach the AARP about partnering, as many aging community members had prescription drugs that they struggled to dispose of. Her hope was to target a variety of areas in the community.

Services to the Aging

Chair Jasper-Morant shared that she had an idea that she had shared with Commissioner Sevier and Chair Goddard, where the goal was to draw both young people and elderly and provide an opportunity for discussion, and to circulate a survey that might identify what they want to see in the coming year. Goddard suggested a movie night in the park, but she wasn't sure if elderly populations would be interested in coming out at night. Jasper-Morant said that she was thinking about a daytime event with prizes and entertainment. She expressed a desire to reach out to the community and get feedback on how to help them.

Crossling suggested that staff may be able to provide connections with Parks and Recreation, providing the example of a Big Band concert, where in her experience, much of the population was made up of senior citizens. Perhaps that band would be interested in performing. She also suggested that they look at the type of movies being shown at the park, to identify particularly interesting movies to elder populations. She also noted that it was the responsibility of the Commission to ensure that the type of movies being shown were inclusive.

HRC Commissioner Samuel Hawkins shared that various groups sponsored movies and movie series, including UNCG and Carolina Theater, who showed *Gone with the Wind*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and others. Crossling also suggested that commissioners connect with Smith Senior Center, who facilitated many programs already. Hawkins also suggested that children who were becoming caregivers for their parents. Sevier stated that there were 1.3 million caregivers in North Carolina, she agreed that the caregiver issue was huge.

Sevier expressed a desire to really meet the community's needs, and to seek feedback on what was truly needed. Goddard thanked all for the good discussion.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard shared that her next event was scheduled for October 10, an entrepreneurship program and business expo featuring women who were 40 and under who were business owners and excelling in their careers. She had reached out to a young professional dentist, as well as Joy Cook, Love Crossling and others. The idea was to highlight 3 to 4 professional women, and then provide space for women to showcase their businesses. It was driven by the concept of leading oneself first. While all were welcome, the target audience was 40 and under. Goddard expressed that there might be women over 40 who might also benefit from the experience.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling offered a reminder that commissioners should make staff aware of developing partnerships around initiatives and programs. At times, contacts made through the Commissions then reached out to staff, and staff then appeared uninformed or unwilling to help or support. She added that it was important not to over-promise and under-deliver, especially during this campaign season, as it had the ability to stir up issues.

She added that when it came to branding, it was important to consider whether the Commission was backing the event. Human Relations Department staff had to follow up with communications to ensure that the use of the logo was approved, and it was important to vet the use of the logo.

As far as commission retreat feedback, she pointed them to the printed feedback form in their folders. Staff was committed to crafting a retreat that was useful to the commissioners. She noted that the preferred length of time was half day, and pointed out how the items were ranked. She encouraged commissioners to review the feedback and think about what type of format they wanted, as they would be invited to participate in the planning.

Crossling pointed out the upcoming Women's Equality Day Breakfast, as well as successful past events including the July 22 Second Chance Listening Session, the well-attended August 3 Employment, Education and Reentry, and the August 16 IAC Lunch and Learn which was focused on deportation and detention. Crossling and Goddard had a short conversation about partnering with Thrive to host a reentry event specific to women. It was an informative conversation that left much room for questions and community dialogue. Crossling offered that staff could certainly bridge the CSW with members of the international community to develop programming for women in the international community.

Goddard invited Stanley to share about the One City One Book handouts. Stanley spoke briefly about the One City, One Book initiative and directed Commissioners to refer to their handouts for upcoming events. She noted that events of particular interest to the commission were sent out that week in an email.

Goddard asked if anyone else had announcements, sharing that the Women’s Resource Center’s fundraiser was coming up “Men Can Cook.” Tickets were only \$25, it was a fun event, there were many types of food, many well known community members signed up to cook. It was scheduled for Saturday September 23 and they were looking for more chefs.

HRC Commissioner Hawkins emphasized the International Overdose Awareness Event again August 31, Oak Hollow Mall, 6-8:30 pm. He encouraged commissioners that attended to wear silver in memory of those who had passed away as a result of drug overdose.

Commissioner Hughes shared that this was her last meeting, sharing that she had learned a lot through her work with the commissions and was still committed to the work of the commission. She would continue to support 50+ and other events that she knew would be happening. Goddard thanked her and stated that it had been wonderful to work alongside her, she had supported and cheered her on and she was grateful.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the June Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner White

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Sevier

Unanimous approval

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner White

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Hughes

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date