



Meeting Minutes

October 24, 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: Chair Deborah Goddard, Commissioners Michelle Lucas-Patrick, Catherine Sevier, Wendee Cutler

Absent: Commissioner Joyce Jasper-Morant, Brenda White, Fanta Dorley

Council Liaison:

HRC Liaison:

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley

Visitors: Tiffany Jacobs, Allegra Bailey

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Chair Goddard thanked everyone for attending and invited the visitors to introduce themselves. Tiffany Jacobs with Degrees Matter shared that she partnered with local universities and colleges to support adults pursuing secondary education, to include tuition reimbursement and other forms of support. She estimated that by 2027, all employers would be needing credentialed employees and it was their goal to identify and support those seeking to finish their college degrees.

Commissioner Sevier asked how they found their clients and how they were funded. Jacobs responded that they were solely grant funded, and that they currently worked with the womens resources center, the IRC and other local agencies to identify potential clients. Chair Goddard asked if she ever worked with DSS. Jacobs stated that they had not at this time, however they only had a staff of two people and a few interns to sustain outreach efforts. Commissioner Cutler asked if all funding was from the Community Foundation. She stated that no, some came from Lincoln Financial.

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick asked if the statistics provided had to do with generations that were ready to retire. Jacobs stated that it was a quality of her generation that many people started college and then stopped. They had been working for several years and their positions were now requiring credentials. She pointed out that it also meant that people applied for a job, got it, and didn't try to advance because they didn't feel they could. Cutler asked if there were plans to specialize in particular fields. Jacobs said that the Department of Health and Human Services offered assistance for those who were ready to pursue careers that were high in demand. Cutler asked if they had any employers that were requesting their clientele. Jacobs said that Bank of America was one of their valued partners that recognized the value in working closely with them. Jacobs added that they also offered services to those who were seeking a master's degree.

Allegra Bailey introduced herself as an intern with Degrees Matter and a communications major at UNCG. She cared about the issue because she was raised by a single mom, who just got her degree several months ago. She empathized with people who didn't complete a degree and stated that while it was for class credit, it was an issue she felt passionate about.

Goddard thanked them for coming.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard announced that they had done nine programs this year, and that clearly, the commission was feeling the momentum and energy in the community. In addition to the standard programs, they had 8 or 9 other programs that they simply needed dates for. She also introduced Wendee Cutler as the newest commissioner and invited her to share about herself. Cutler introduced herself as the Executive Director of BJH Foundation for Senior Services, a new member of the Guilford County Commission on Aging with a daughter who was a senior in high school, and a husband that many were familiar with (Ivan Cutler).

Goddard thanked all for their hard work.

Domestic Violence Committee:

Chair Goddard stated that Commissioner White was out of town and was unable to attend.

Education Committee:

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick shared that Tiffany Jacobs had already touched on much of the direction her committee was going in. She stated that it might be helpful to have a forum and was brainstorming ways of reaching the best audience of people that needed the services, where to have the event. Love Crossing

shared that Barbara Harris, assistant City Manager, as someone who had formerly shared her story of pursuing a secondary education in a manner that was not traditional. Lucas-Patrick thanked Crossling for the recommendation and said she would reach out to Harris. She noted that the Women's Resource center had just had an application drive. Sometime in June sounded like a good time to host an event.

Jacobs noted that they had resources available to help with the process. Lucas-Patrick asked what was needed if someone wanted to pursue a nursing degree. Crossling also suggested that United Way recently did a study with Washington University that covered the cost of living in Greensboro, with 53,000 being the average if you had a child, and she stated that Michelle Gethers-Clark delivered the message in a very impactful way. Sevier added that the most impactful realization that she had from the same message was that when financial help was offered to low-income residents it sometimes hurt them, because they were no longer eligible for financial assistance. Discussion was held around the ease and difficulty of navigating healthcare, housing and daycare. Crossling offered that staff could assist in getting speakers or information. Lucas-Patrick stated that she would be very interested in getting a copy of the powerpoint.

Lucas-Patrick shared her own story of pursuing another degree while her son was in college, and how it changed her outlook and increased her confidence.

Women and Equality Committee

Chair Goddard announced that this committee chair position was still vacant.

Health Committee:

Commissioner Sevier noted that in Jasper-Morant's absence she would share about their collective plans. Sevier noted that there were three planned programs, ideally engaging and enjoyable, one in April, one in June and one at the end of September/first of October. They identified groups of topics, one of them being the sandwich generation who were raising kids but also caring for their parents. Also included would be caregiving, mental health issues, dealing with difficult family members, elder abuse, nutrition, exercise, and Alzheimer's memory prevention material. Their model was to cover the resources needed, including the 211 number, dealing with grief and loss and finding support.

The Zeta's had come alongside the project as their priority this year was aging. April Franklin, liaison at Mount Zion, was also a part of the team. Sevier noted that while they were equally concerned about the health of younger women, and this series definitely offered something for them as well, their primary target audience was aging populations. Crossling announced that they had an upcoming event focused on housing aging populations and that staff would pass along information as it was made available. Stanley shared about programming calendar and asked if there were any connections to TRLA. Lucas-Patrick shared that Diane Surgeon with the Zeta's was a good contact for this program.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Jasper-Morant was not in attendance.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard shared that their recent event at the Nussbaum center was a success, great connections were made and that she got good feedback from the event. She shared that it was her hope to offer some

general leadership development and empowerment session, to possibly include financial empowerment, into a program in January. She added that Carla Comer with Passion to Purse approached her after the last program and that they might collaborate, noting that there were requests to offer a program for women over 40 that were looking at career options.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling noted that the focus at this time was on the upcoming retreat, adding that the goal was for all commissioners and committee members to come to the table ready with ideas for work and collaborations. She referred them to the commission retreat outline, pointing out that the staff portion at the end was designed to simplify the retreat itself, but would provide direction for training throughout the year.

She went through each portion of the agenda, providing brief descriptions. General discussion was held around the retreat and staff providing reminders about RSVP's, presentations and expectations.

Crossling stated that the recent events, LeadHerShip and the Thrive GSO Voting Lunch & Learn were very successful, both having about 40 attendees. She noted that upcoming events included housing and reentry and housing and aging populations.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the September Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Sevier

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Lucas-Patrick

Unanimous approval

Commissioner Cutler invited all to their upcoming event on Sunday from 11 am - 4 pm, a Jewish Festival at Temple Emanuel.

Crossling noted that it would be important going forward, considering the number of people that the commission was reduced to, and the amount of work that they had accomplished over the past year, that it might be a consideration that they petition council to increase the number of the commission. She added that she couldn't guarantee that Council would respond positively, but that it may be a worthwhile request. Goddard responded that it would be good to first get to their full nine members. Goddard added that she would share about upcoming events.

Sevier noted that the next meeting would be November 28, adding that she would not be in attendance. Goddard thanked Sevier and added that sometimes the Commission canceled the December meeting.

Crossling added that while there wasn't anything on the agenda that was a social ice breaker, the feedback had been received and there was consideration to incorporate social events and that staff would be willing to support.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner Sevier

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Cutler

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date