

City of Greensboro

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINUTES

June 17, 2014

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. on the above date in the City Council Chamber, 2nd floor of the Melvin Municipal Office Building. Chair Foy presided.

Present: Commissioners Vickie Henry, Viola Fuller, Felicia Angus, Linda Mabry, Chalene Peterson, Andrea Coombs, Joy Cook

Excused Absences: None

Human Relations Department Staff: Dr. Love Crossling, Executive Director; Donna Gray, Senior Manager; Allen Hunt, Supervisor and Isabel Gil, Administrative Assistant.

Visitors: Windsora Brandford, Cynthia Ricks, Sonia Ricks, Brandie Williams

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chair Henry.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Interim Chair Henry recognized and welcomed visitors.

GUEST SPEAKERS – Cynthia Ricks, Dr. Sonia Ricks and Tia Hunter

Mrs. Cynthia Ricks presented about The Color of Reason, Women's Community Council. Their mission is to ensure the opportunity for women to promote equity and equality in society through community civic engagement that includes corporative discourse, communal issue awareness and education in order to improve and uplift marginalized local and global communities. These things are done by investing in some organizations that are already prevalent such as the Center of Hope. The Color of Reason donates new and gently used items as well as toiletries. For the annual Domestic Violence Forum, which is going to take place on June 21 from 9-2pm at the Glenwood Recreation Center, they are partnering with the CSW and the Top Ladies of Distinction as well as partnering for the Healthy Lifestyle Symposium taking place on June 25 from 9 to 1pm at the Smith Senior Center. She also stated that she is very pleased with the first Father-Daughter dance held this past February at the Empire Room; it was a very successful event. They are always looking for new members with committed minds to help them work with the community. She thanked interim Chair Henry and the commissioners for the opportunity to present. Interim Chair Henry stated they are looking forward to work with them.

Dr. Ricks was also invited to present. She stated she has just embarked on a new venture that it will be very useful for the community with an online University called Piedmont University Online. This entity is coming to existing and classes are starting on August 24, 2014 and with the following certificate programs: Medical Billing and Coding, Early Childhood Education,

Human Services Program and Human Resources Management. These certificates are 18-24 credit hours and students will get certificate of completion, they are flexible and cost efficient with excellent tuition and student assistance. She hopes the Commissioners join her with the excitement of this educational opportunity for the community.

Commissioner Coombs thanked both presenters and said she is sure that women that are struggling trying to get their lives better will definitely benefit from the program.

Mrs. Tia Hunter presented on Job Corps. Job Corps is part of the Department of Labor and has been around since 1964. It is the largest residential training facility in the country. They emphasize with women in career training that are going back in the workforce or beginning the workforce, the ages of attendees are 16-24. There are opportunities for people that do have diploma and for those who don't. Some specialized trainings are health occupations, culinary arts and hospitality, facilities maintenance, light and heavy construction, IT and more. There are four Job Corps centers in North Carolina. These programs are for persons who are under privileged and also for 18 year olds who have zero income. They can get their GED or Diploma, it usually takes eight to twelve months to complete training and will live in residential dorms and is a 35,000 per year scholarship. After completion of programs they get assistance from the career transitions specialist, they will assist up to 21 months to place them in either of these three areas: work, military or advance training/community college.

Commissioner Combs asked if these programs were only for women and if there is a stipend. Mrs. Hunter answered it is a co-ed program and the stipend is \$25.00 every two weeks. The government is paying for cost of living. Job Corps provides basic medical care and they can also apply for the Affordable Care Act.

Commissioner Fuller commented that a couple of her nieces and nephews in other state have gone through that program and they are doing exceedingly well and stated it is an excellent program and opportunity.

Commissioner Cook asked if participants able to participate if they have a felony. Mrs. Hunter answered they take a look at a case by case basis.

Mrs. Hunter thanked for the opportunity to present.

Report from the Chair – Commissioner Vickie Henry

On Saturday June 28, there will be a conference call about the Women's Equality Breakfast because there is no meeting in July.

- 1) As stated earlier the CSW is partnering with The Color of Reason and the Top Ladies of Distinction with for the Domestic Violence Forum on June 21, 2014 at the Glenwood Recreation Center
- 2) The 50 + Forum will be on June 25 from 9-1 pm at the Smith Senior Center; around 20 vendors have confirmed their participation.
- 3) The Women's Equality Day Breakfast will take place at the Terrace, Greensboro Coliseum on August 23 at 7:30 am. Tickets are \$25.00 and the speaker will be Mayor

Nancy Vaughn. The theme will be *Women of Vision*. A spoken word will be presented by Sage and a musical piece will be in place as well.

Partnerships: The CSW has been partnering with The Color of Reason, Top Ladies of Distinction, The Women of Guilford and The Women in Organizing. Also she has been trying to reach out to the Hispanic community and got in touch with Kathy Hinshaw with the Latino Community Coalition but they are meeting the same day of the 50 Plus Forum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee-Viola Fuller

The committee is collaborating with The Color of Reason for the 50+ Forum, the Bone and Joint Initiative and they will send materials for osteoporosis and an Orthopedic is presenting. The presentation lasts about 45 minutes.

Women and Leadership – Joy Cook

Commissioner Cook is pleased to have Commissioner Mabry joining the committee. She is also excited to report that the CSW put out an official statement on the passing of Dr. Maya Angelou as follows: *“We learned today of the passing of one of the most prolific poets and inspiration leaders of our time. We honor the legacy of Dr. Maya Angelou her life embodies what it means to serve humanity. Dr. Angelou was an extraordinary woman whose power was exuded through her poems and literature; we are more because of you Dr. Angelou, thank you for encouraging us to strive for greatness”* – the City of Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women

The committee is still in the planning stages and she will report back later in the summer.

STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Crossling wanted to emphasize that the International Advisory Committee, seeded in the HRC, is in the stage of revitalization. The purpose of the IAC is to engage outreach, education and awareness to immigrant and refugee populations to include the obtaining of resources and reviewing policy of the distribution of resources. In the effort to revitalize there are a host of international organizational leaders that are the table to include the CNNC, Faith Action, American Friends Services Committee, Church World Services and World Relief. If there is information that Commissioners would like to share regarding the CSW efforts that may appeal to women in international populations, they can reach out to HRD or Chair Umar Awan IAC chair. Like Dr. Crossling has presented she hopes for the merging of efforts across the Commissions when applicable and CSW has a lot of committee work that appeals to the women in these populations and the HRD can help bridge that connection.

In addition, Dr. Crossling stated the importance to raise the subject of diversity within the Commission and the commissioners have the opportunity to recruit people for the committees.

Allen Hunt wanted to answer some questions and concerns that have been raised:

1. Quorum: He looked at the code together with Isabel Gil and quorum is the majority of the commissioners that have been appointed.

2. Appointment acceptance: Under the current city clerk standard, if someone shows up to the meeting that is physical way to express the acceptance.
3. Orientation Manual: It is being reviewed by Interim Chair Henry and Allen will discuss with her of how it will be presented for the future; after that, the orientation for new members will be scheduled.
4. Name plates: Will be ordered after the new budget comes in place
5. Social Media: If it is a dedicated page representing the Commission or an agency within the government it has to go through the communications department approval but if it is within the commissioners network it is allowed to share as pleased.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes
On motion made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Cook the January minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- February 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes
On motion made by Commissioner Mabry and seconded by Commissioner Fuller the February minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- May 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes
On motion made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Commissioner Cook the May minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Commissioner Fuller and seconded by Chair Coombs interim Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 1:55 pm.

Chairperson

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____

Date