

*City of Greensboro*

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**MINUTES**

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the above date in the Orientation Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Cultural Arts Center.

**Present:** Vice Chair Linda Mabry, Commissioners Vickie Henry, Deborah Goddard, Viola Fuller, Chalene Peterson

**Excused Absences:** Chair Felicia Angus

**Human Relations Department Staff:** Dr. Love Crossling, HRD Executive Director and Allen Hunt, Supervisor

**Visitors:** Salima Thomas-Partners Ending Homelessness, Amy Murphy, Anne Shaw

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE AND CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Mabry called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Vice Chair Mabry recognized and welcomed visitors.

**GUEST SPEAKER- Salima Thomas, Partners Ending Homelessness**

The program Partners Ending Homelessness is the lead coordinating organization that addresses hunger and homelessness in the community. They provide resources and oversight to homeless agencies and programs in Greensboro, along with Guilford County. Many victims of homelessness are domestic abuse survivors and women with children, and in the interest of the CSW, Thomas requested a partnership and collaboration to advocate for women enduring homelessness in the community.

**GUEST SPEAKER- Amy Murphy**

Amy Murphy serves breakfast at Center City Park to the homeless every Monday morning, along with visitor Anne Shaw, serving 16 to 100 every week. There are 21 groups and agencies serving the large hunger issue downtown. The next effort is to deliver meals to those without transportation, which was evidenced in the first meal delivered to Pear Leaf Community apartments. As of now there is a push for a no-barrier shelter, as there are still chronically homeless people who have used up their days at the Urban Ministries in the community.

## **REPORT GIVEN BY VICE CHAIR MABRY**

Linda Mabry reported that there was a recent meeting with Linda Gilford regarding the Women's Equality Breakfast. This meeting attempted to address the issues in planning thus far. There was discussion concerning the progress in the marketing and fundraising areas, along with saving the date. The idea about having a panel discussion during the breakfast was proposed as well. The four recommended panelists include: Addy Jeffrey, Dr. Vita Bland, Michelle Smith and Barbara Harris. Mabry recommended that the commission should promptly allocate responsibilities in the planning of the breakfast. Mabry proposed the fundraising idea of a Bowl-a-Thon. As far as marketing is concerned, it is suggested to select and contact NC non-profit organizations. Other fundraising and marketing ideas include taking out ads in the program, buying a booth or a table. The theme of the Women's Equality Breakfast, "The Year of the Woman", was motioned for approval. The theme passed in a unanimous decision.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Education Committee – Commissioner Chalene Peterson**

The Education Committee has been recruiting new members, and has received 2 new members thus far. The first meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Vance Chavis Library to go over plans for the year. The committee is going to have an education opportunity fair. This will include information on services for young people transitioning into adulthood as well as people who are more seasoned in the workforce. The meeting will also entail a discussion about potential community service projects to be undertaken during the year.

### **Balance and Health – Commissioner Viola Fuller**

The Health Committee will participate in Pace Health Fair, this Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-1pm off of East Cone Boulevard. They will set up a table and bring a gift bag for the raffles. The informative program *Fit to a T*, concerning osteoporosis, will be presented at the Health Fair, as osteoporosis affects the young and the old alike.

### **Woman and Domestic Violence – Commissioner Mabry**

Commissioner Mabry reported that the Women Writers of the Triad will be having a six-week workshop starting June 1<sup>st</sup> ending July 6<sup>th</sup> for survivors of domestic abuse. The leaders in the Hampton Homes area will encourage the women to attend these workshops. Fliers and media will be used to promote the workshops. There is a special meeting April 29<sup>th</sup> about the *Lighting of the Purple Tree* in October to promote awareness on domestic abuse. Mabry recently reached out to the Gay and Latino communities to extend an invitation to be a part of this event. It is intended for there to be a march from Washington Street to the steps of the courthouse to recognize the victims of domestic abuse in order to raise awareness as well.

### **Services to the Aging – Commissioner Henry**

Commissioner Henry has sent out 57 invitations for the senior health event at the Smith Senior Center which will occur on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 pm. There have been 13 confirmations thus far. This event will include screenings for glucose, blood pressure, weight, and spinal health. There will be hourly events, such as senior exercises and information on senior scams. Vendors will be around the gym with information about senior health. Refreshments will be provided to attendees while lunch will only be provided to the vendors of the event. Commissioner Henry reported that the Health Committee's *Fit to a T* program will be one of the special sessions at this event.

## **Leadership Through Service – Commissioner Goddard**

The first meeting will be May the 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Goddard expressed a desire to get the committee involved in helping the homeless in some aspect. There is also an interest in an involvement in groups against human trafficking.

### **Staff Report:**

Love Crossling updated the following:

- The commission received a debriefing packet in their folder regarding the retreat, which covers the succession planning, visioning, department reorganization, and commission work planning.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to complete the work plan as a trajectory for the upcoming fiscal year. The work plan consists of the committee's goals and aspirations, and should be regarded as a draft. It will be reviewed for holes and also for potential areas of expansion.
- The committee chairs are welcome to attend the Human Relations Staff meetings every Monday at 10am to become better acquainted with the department, which consists of three divisions: commission support, fair housing, and education and outreach.

Allen Hunt updated the following:

- Allen Hunt advised that the committee chairs use their last names during the upcoming meetings for the benefit of the summer interns that will be completing the transcriptions of the meetings.
- Regarding the logistics of the Women's Equality Breakfast, Allen Hunt inquired about what committee is in charge of the breakfast. The reply stated that the breakfast is a collaborative effort.
- Allen Hunt also inquired about the speakers of the floor, and the importance of voicing the main focuses of the commission to the city council within the 3 minute time limit. Love stated that the consistency of the issues addressed to council is crucial, and that one committee chair can make the commitment each month to update council on the CSW commission.

### **Items for Discussion & Vote**

#### **Equality Breakfast Theme**

- "The Year of the Woman" for the Women's Equality breakfast was unanimously approved by the commission.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- **Meeting Minutes**; a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Commissioner Fuller. The motion to table the minutes was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Fuller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Peterson, and unanimously approved at approximately 7:30 pm

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*Chairperson*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN