

# *City of Greensboro*

## **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

### **MINUTES**

**March 24, 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:** Chair Felicia Angus, Vice Chair Linda Mabry, Commissioners Vickie Henry, Deborah Goddard, Viola Fuller, Sade Nicholson, Lindsay Burkart

**Absences:** Wanda Smith, Chalene Peterson

**Human Relations Department Staff:** Dr. Love Crossling and Isabel Gil

**Visitors:** Kevin Williams, Human Relations Commission Chair

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Angus called the meeting to order. She discussed that the mission is improve the quality of life for women in Greensboro. A moment of silence meditation was witnessed.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Chair Angus recognized and welcomed visitors.

One of the visitors was Susan Watson a resident of Greensboro. She had long career with North Western Mutual until about year ago. She recently took the position in Alamance County as the Director of the Women's Resource Center in Burlington. She is a member of the Women of Guilford Board where she serves as secretary, a member of the Women's Professional Forum, and on the board of the Women's Resource Center in Greensboro.

Watson discussed information about the Women of Guilford briefly. Discussed that it is a

- Small non-profit board created to be the financial arm for the Commission on the Status of Women.
- 501c3 non-profit
- Women of Guilford Board wrote a book called the *Women of Guilford* back in 1977 which discussed the history of the women in Guilford County; started in the 1700s and came up to the 1970's; was done as a fundraising effort.
- Women of Guildford had hands on help with the Commission on the Status of Women trying to advance the issues of women in Greensboro.
- Want to have a more cohesive role with the commission.

Angus asked for any questions or comments for visitor.

### **REPORT FROM CHAIR – Commissioner Angus**

- Women and Equality Breakfast is August 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Terrace. Time: TBD
- General Updates
  - Encouraged each of the commissioners to invite people to public meetings to have more involvement from the community and women.
  - Discussed partnering with MWBE to address community involvement and allowing women to come to the table to submit bids for opportunities in Greensboro.
  - Chair Angus asked for updates pertaining the Facebook page. Isabel Gil informed her that the page will be ready by the end of the week.
- Important dates and events attended:
  - Volunteered at the Distinguished Young Women of North Carolina Pageant at the Carolina Theatre on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Volunteered at the church under the bridge feeding the homeless
  - Attended City Council Meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>
- Asked if there were any questions; wanted to ensure that there is a clear cut, flexible environment process between CSW and HRD so that there is an understanding what HDR responsibilities are
- Discussed recommendations on seeing how to make CSW more efficient and relevant in a simple and clear way
- Questioned the issue of how we can increase participation at meetings.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Visitor Paula Pile, Chairperson of the Board of the Women of Guilford and a former commission chair, provided further information regarding the Women of Guilford.

- Women of Guilford was established as a funding source more than 20 years ago
- Helped to fund different events, such as small start-ups.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education Committee – Commissioner Deborah Goddard (check to make sure this is who was talking- CSW Mar-15 (3) 1:36)**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> she met with Makiah Jounson founding director of 39 Strikes in the midst of getting her 501c3. The organization is run out off Mt. Zion Baptist Church off of Alamance Church Road. Met with Love Crossing and Isabel Gil to discuss a possible partnership event with 39 Strikes. Wants to look at what kind of programming education wants to offer this year. Wants to explore if it will be a talk series, target to young women or older women. Looking into possible partnerships in terms of standing programs already being implemented in the community.

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

Commissioner Fuller responded to the education committee. She stated that Ms. Townsend is connected with Headway Success Group. She discussed the Father Daughter Gala that would be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The past week the group did a pay it forward event where they went to random Quick Service Restaurants and paid for people's food in which taught the girls how to give back.

### **Woman's and Equality – Commissioner Angus**

Angus met with Love Crossling and Gwen Carter to discuss a four-part dialogue that would embody opportunities to get businesses listed with MWBE. The MWBE components would be handled by Love Crossling, however the Commission of Equality's responsibility would be to bring the community in to support and learn more about it. Discussed that if anyone had different things they wanted to see take place within the MWBE forums, dialogues, or workshops to take place to make sure to send an email or call Angus.

The Women's Equality Breakfast to be held on August 29<sup>th</sup> was discussed briefly. It was discussed briefly about the possible partnership with the Women of Guilford. The next steps in moving forward with seeking out the partnership with the Women of Guilford were discussed by Love Crossling.

- April 28<sup>th</sup> is the date to discuss the partnership and logistics regarding The Women's Equality Breakfast.
- The meeting will be held from 12pm-1pm at Chavis Library Asked for individuals to send in feedback/ comments if they will be unable to attend the meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Need to work on bulleted outline that can be sent to Love Crossling by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Linda was not available, however she provided a report in which was read by Angus. The report discussed the ongoing business to discuss the memorial, developing the work plan, figuring out how much it will cost, fundraising, who will maintain the money, partnership, grant writing, and the candlelight ritual. Future projects, programs and activities, collaborations of community organizations and partnerships, will contact Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and contacting Love Crossling to arrange a meeting was discussed. Lastly it was informed that they are going to invite and email Mt. Zion, utilize word of mouth, and call the Family Service of Piedmont.

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

No report

### **Leadership through service – Commissioner Goddard**

Commissioner Goddard discussed that she is still doing some recruiting and actually met with someone the night prior that is interested in getting on the committee at the Police Dialogue. Starting to meet with people individually since it is hard to try to connect with small groups. Based on the people that have expressed interest she thanked Barbara Duay, will try to come to the public meeting next month, and will let them know then if she will like to really get involved;

believes she will a great asset to the commission. Had not heard back from Amy Ruth, but sent out an email to her as well.

Met with Allen and discussed that she will get a roster together of key leaders whether via business owners, organizational leaders, or people leading through civic engagement. Has a few she would like to contact but would like to first finalize the breakfast and what the plans are. Wants to make sure things are intact so that she reach out to them and provide them with concrete information. It was stated that she will have more updates and hopefully people joining the committee.

Love Crossling discussed the steps regarding the compilation of the list and the distribution of invitations.

- It was stated that the list is first compiled and then the invitations are sent out.
- It was encouraged for others to provide individuals to be added to the list, but the issue with electronic versus printed invitations was also elaborated on.
- Love Crossling discussed the cost effectiveness of electronic invitations overlapping with the printed invitations.
- It was stated that if individuals want to add others to the list to make sure that they include the persons email address, phone number, and mailing address. If you don't have all three please provide the most information possible.
- Love Crossling also stated the time frame regarding the invitations. Save the dates are usually sent out a month prior to the event.
- List of individual's names to be added to the list can be sent in as soon as possible.

Question was asked to Love Crossling regarding the Women's Resource Center and a possible Needs Assessment which would be helpful to their organization if we were ever to do another one. Lastly, it was asked if there was any way to reconnect again with Addy Jeffrey in contacting her in reviving the Breast Density.

### **Staff Report:**

#### **Love Crossling updated the following**

- MWBE collaboration
  - Continue to bridge the link between MWBE efforts and the breakfast.
  - The goal is to highlight women in business.
  - If it is decided to keep the two separate that is fine, however if you want them linked it needs to be intentional about the design and format of the breakfast because it will be molded and shaped by the workshops leading up to it, as it is a marriage between the two.
- Need the bulleted outline,
  - Needs to embody 4 conversations over a year's time, starting ideally from June 1<sup>st</sup> and then going on a quarterly basis (two before and two after the breakfast).
  - Needs to be narrowed down according to theme.
  - One needs to generate four main themes that will steer and guide the type of information that the MWBE will bring to the table to share to the public.
  - It is overall a MWBE 101 snapshot of everything you need to know to get your business certified and in the database for MWBE so you can bid for contracts such as, service contracts as well as products.

- In the past it focused on service revision, now there is a new direction.
  - Need by Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please brainstorm in bullets.
- HRC and Maurice Hicks. Maurice Hicks is a filmmaker in the community who has done short films on critical Issues, such as Fatherhood. Possibility for a panelist. Hicks will like to offer up his work and himself as a panelist around a discussion around certain issues. If interested contact Isabel Gil.
  - Discussed the possibility/ways to expedite meeting for hot topics. Program planning guide may be lengthy.
  - Ruth Wicker Project Result of plan is for a Women's Memorial. It was the desire of a prominent leader in the community that wanted to leave money so that a monument of some sort could capture the experience of women locally and globally. In the space off Lee Street called Gateway Gardens has begun to draw up a plan for this memorial. Parks and Recreation involved and CSW constantly involved. Planning is wrapping up. Met with the representative of the historical museum.
  - Allen Hunt created a 9 week trajectory for how to get to The Women's Equality Breakfast. Isabel will send it out to everyone. Allen had a healthy baby boy today.
  - Human Relations Department interested in having the Human Relations Commission Leadership come and talk about initiatives and interests. Leaving aside time to participate in the staff meeting. Wants to invite someone from CSW, Human Relations Commission, International Advisory Committee, etc. so the staff can have a consistent feel in regards to what the commissions want to capture and figuring out how the staff can be most helpful.
  - Reporting secondary authority. Subcommittee commitment needs to increase. Work towards increasing recruitment.
  - Approach to council. Need for increased appointments and diversity in those intended appointments. The need for numbers. Every second meeting of the month is when appointments are allowed, but they aren't happening frequently enough. At large commissioners can appoint anybody. Need to be prepared with three things:
    - What you are doing up to this point and the fact that your efforts could be more robust if you had more numbers
    - Demographic; lack of diversity in your organization
    - Highlight the Women's Equality Day Breakfast and the amount of effort it will take. Expedite process so that we can make sure we are fully staffed for this event.
  - The Half Day Retreat options were the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and the overwhelming majority has chose the 25<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the retreat the efforts up to this points and make out what will have for the rest of this fiscal year. What you want to do during the first half
  - Allen Hunt will be out until the 8<sup>th</sup>. For all needs contact Isabel Gil and copy Love Crossling.

**Isabel Gil**

- Discussed The Women’s Equality Breakfast
  - Equality Breakfast has been at the Terrace for the past years
  - Last Year catering: \$1152.90
  - Ticket Sales: \$1225.00

**Love Crossling**

- This year trying to get sponsorships to back some of the efforts for women’s equality
- Allen Hunt’s trajectory will help out a great deal because it shows you what needs to happen almost week by week from who needs to be contacted, when your sponsorship letters need to go out and what they need to say.

**Chair Angus**

- April 28<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting with the CSW and the Women of Guilford
- Discussion of a possible email thread

**Other Business**

Commissioner Nicholson spoke with Officer Greg. He is primarily over the Western Division of the City. He is in charge of things such as Coffee with the Cop. There is one coming up in April at Biscuitville on West Market. Earlier meeting discussed having thematic general body meetings around police and community dialogue. Believes he will be a good point of contact.

**Items for Discussion & Vote**

Chair Angus proposed coming up with a theme for the year for the Equality Breakfast.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Angus made a motion to adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

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*Chairperson*

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

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