



Minutes
April 26, 2016

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:12 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Foster, Henry, Jimerson, Fuller, Lowe

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley, Love Crossling

Visitor: Joyce Moran

Absent: Commissioners Yongue, Nicholson

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Recognition of Visitors and Presentations

Chair Goddard recognized visitors from the community:

Chair Goddard welcomed Joyce Moran with the Guilford County court system and thanked her for coming.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard gave the Chair report, encouraging all commissioners to continue getting out there, staying active within their respective communities and in touch with current happenings. She advised of a recent meeting she had with Merle Green with the Department of Public Health that left her hopeful about future partnerships with them. Chair Goddard thanked all of the commissioners for coming, stressing that although they were a small group, they were passionate and ready to do the work.

Domestic Violence Committee

Chair Goddard extended her thanks to Commissioner Foster for taking on the role of Chair of the Domestic Violence Committee, advising that she had no expectation of a report for this first meeting. Commissioner Foster asked for clarification on what was expected, stating that she took the initiative to follow up with the three local district attorneys, Thompson, Hubbard and Cole. She also called a detective/agent with the Greensboro Police Department and left a message asking to speak with him. From what she had learned so far, the information and data she was receiving from the County DA's office contradicted the police department's data and experience. She expressed her commitment to follow through with that to try to understand the contradiction.

Commissioner Fuller told of a former partnership with local agencies to create a once a month lunch and brief movie event to bring women together to talk about issues related to domestic violence, and suggested that Commissioner Foster follow up with Marva Edwards with Inspire. Commissioner Lowe reported that the YWCA was committed to addressing trafficking and domestic violence issues, and shared about an event they were hosting on May 10. Chair Goddard advised that Lindsay Burkart, former CSW Commissioner and Domestic Violence Committee Chair, may be able to provide some direction about potential partners. An event to be held at 6pm on May 14 at the Church of Christ, to address human trafficking, was also announced.

Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter described a forum she attended, wherein she learned that gentleman's clubs were identified as frequent offenders of sex trafficking, describing a small resource card she was given with warning signs to look for. She clarified that often, the clubs' owners and managers were actually reporting the trafficking, not wanting to be held liable for violations.

Commissioner Foster thanked all present for sharing their knowledge and information, advising that she was able to contact a high level director in Raleigh and would be attending certification training.

Education Committee

Commissioner Nicholson was not in attendance, no report given.

Women and Equality Committee

Chair Goddard presented updates on planning for the Women's Equality Day Breakfast, sharing that Arnetta Beverly was willing and able to be the moderator for the program, and that panelists included Catherine Johnson with the Family Justice Center, Mary Kendricks, Diversity Coordinator with Other Voices, possibly Kathy Hinshaw with the Latino Community Coalition, Anna Fesmire with the League of Women Voters. Kathy Harrelson was suggested as a back up if one of the other panelists was unable to fulfill the role.

Motion to approve selected panelists for the 2016 Women's Equality Day Breakfast

Motion 1st: Commissioner Fuller

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Henry

Unanimous approval

Additional discussion was held around the design of the flyer and what image to use. Commissioner Fuller asked the question, "Will questions be developed ahead of time?" HRD staffer Jodie Stanley confirmed that developing and circulating questions before hand was due process. When asked if attendees might prefer a buffet or plated meal, general consensus was held around plating.

General discussion was also held around the photographer, who was contacted by Dr. Crossling. While it was suggested to use the photographer as a fundraiser opportunity, the decision was made to keep it simple so as not to over tax the photographer. Since no one had heard about the Polk Duo performing, it was decided that Commissioner Nicholson would be asked to follow up with them. Chair Goddard mentioned that panelist invitations would be mailed as soon as personal contact was made. Discussion was held around sponsors. Stanley suggested that personal contact was much more successful last year than cold mailings. Commissioners agreed that it was important to send letters, but also to follow up intentionally.

Dr. Crossling encouraged Commissioners to settle on an image for the flyer that was welcoming to all women. Discussion was held around the purchase of a puzzle pen as a promotional item to hand out during the breakfast.

Motion to approve the purchase of promotional pens

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jimerson

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Fuller

Unanimous approval

Chair Goddard thanked Commissioners for their input and hard work on the Women's Equality Day Breakfast planning.

Health Committee

Commissioner Fuller shared that at the time breast density was being addressed, the Commission had entered into a relationship with Pace of the Triad, and invited Commissioners to an upcoming event at 8:30 am on May 7, a health fair and diabetes walk sponsored by Pace of the Triad. She also reminded Commissioners of the upcoming 50+ Forum on June 9. Commissioner Fuller invited them to be part of a blood drive sponsored by the National Negro Association of Women, sharing that African American blood was more compatible with sickle-cell patients' needs. Commissioner Henry clarified that the Diabetes Walk would take place before the Health Fair.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Henry promoted the 50+ event once more, stating that the flyers, evaluation forms, and sign up sheets were completed and ready to go. She also stated that Jennie Matkins would be presenting at the event, and that a list of the morning's events, including a piece on financial planning, would be posted in the Senior Center's hallway for review. Commissioner Henry reached out to Suzanne Black with AARP to be part of it, and was still looking for vendors. Dr. Crossling offered that the department might be able to provide dry goods for the event, advising that the purchase would need to be made before June 1. Commissioner Henry added that they would close the event with something special before noon.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard directed Commissioners to review her chair report, and shared that one more member joined her subcommittee.

Commissioner Foster asked where she should host subcommittee meetings. Dr. Crossling responded by advising her to contact City staff member Jodie Stanley should she want to reserve a City facility.

V. Staff Report

Dr. Crossling shared a brief update on available funds and reminded Commissioners to spend available funds before June 1 deadline. She also mentioned the opportunity to partner with the

Human Relations Commission in honoring the late Dr. Revels with a resolution. Commissioner Fuller asked to be updated on this process.

Dr. Crossling also shared upcoming retreat opportunities, one for leadership, and the other for Commission bodies, stating that part of the goal was to shape next year's budget. She stressed the importance of presenting the rationale behind the request for program funding, explaining about the budget cycle and process, and the importance of collaborating in order to prevent duplication.

Commissioner Jimerson asked if there was a list of regular activities over the past year. Dr. Crossling's response included events such as Fit to a T, 50+, and the Women's Equality Day Breakfast. Commissioner Jimerson encouraged all Commissioners to review the cost of each of their events and assess the need for funding, including in-kind donations, with the goal to set a projected budget for the upcoming year and argue the need to request additional funding.

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Foster

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Fuller

Unanimous approval

VI. Announcements

As a point of follow up, Chair Goddard asked Commissioners if they were interested in partnering with Joyce Rice, a former visitor to the CSW monthly meeting. Commissioner Jimerson pointed out the value in working with Rice to enhance understanding of budget and financial management, that there was no point in a woman getting a job if she couldn't then manage her finances.

Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter shared an email she received about Denim Day, sharing the back story about wearing denim in recognition of the harmful nature of sexual assaults.

Commissioner Henry encouraged Commissioners to join her in the Vial of Life 'stuffing' party, advising that the materials were printed, but needed prepping before they could be circulated.

VIII. Adjournment (7:30 pm)

Motion to adjourn

Motion 1st: Commissioner Fuller

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Foster

Unanimous approval

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date