



Minutes

September 27, 2016

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:04 p.m. on the above date in Room 203 at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Commissioners Goddard, Lowe, White, Jasper-Morant, Foster

Council Liaison:

HRC Liaison:

Human Relations Department Staff: Jodie Stanley

Visitor: Isabel Phillips, Kiera, Karen Green, Lisa Kenny

Absent: Hughes, Jimerson

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Chair Goddard invited visitors to introduce themselves.

Visitors from Grimsley, the guests announced that they were attending for a service learning project. Goddard asked how they learned about the CSW. Lisa Kenny came to the Cultural Arts Center for pottery classes, saw the meeting posted and passed it along to her daughter. Kiera and her aunt Karen were present for the same learning service project and attending to observe and learn.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard advised that she was continuing to focus on networking and finding other groups that were interested in working together. She shared a little about the Smart Girls program that covered life skills and addressed many areas of a young girl's life and encouraged commissioners to begin a list of resources for young women.

Goddard announced that Women Impacting Greensboro invited commissioners to their event on November 10 from 6-9 at Holy Trinity Church on Greene St. She added that she invited people to their meetings whenever possible.

For the sake of visitors, Goddard explained the process of giving committee reports.

Domestic Violence Committee

Commissioner Foster had not yet arrived.

Education Committee

Commissioner Lowe had not yet arrived.

Women and Equality Committee

Commissioner Jimerson was absent.

Health Committee

Chair position was vacant.

Services to the Aging

Commissioner Jasper-Morant shared that she had been thinking about doing a medical talk show, did not yet have a title for the program. She had connected with a doctor who might be willing to help with the program, adding that she was also talking to a person who dealt with holistic health in an effort to bring that component into the program. She expressed her concern that many women in the community were concerned about health issues and that this program would be addressing these needed concerns. She added that she would also be talking to Commissioner Hughes about partnering with her on additional programming.

Leadership Through Service Committee

Chair Goddard gave an update on her Higher Opportunities for Women program, reporting that they had a total of 86 women at the event. She said that many of the women offered positive feedback about the program. One attendee suggested that they wished the workshops were longer because the workshops felt rushed. Goddard shared that while the numbers were not as high as they had hoped, she was encouraged with the sentiments expressed by attendees and the businesses that represented at the event. She shared her hope that there would be a follow up with NC Works Career Center staff and that they might work together on a future program around employment.

Goddard continued by sharing that Marlaina Guillaume, their keynote speaker, shared some special giveaways with visitors. Goddard finished with the announcement that they planned to partner with Addy Jeffrey for the TedWOMEN conference on October 27.

Additional commissioners arrived, so Goddard invited them to offer updates on their committees.

Commissioner Foster shared that she was still looking for additional committee members and was especially interested in reaching out to someone in the LGBT community. She shared a desire to have future materials printed in Spanish. She announced that she was still trying to reach Bernetta Thigpen who was not receiving emails, and was trying to work out a date and additional logistics with the Greensboro Police Department for a basketball event.

Goddard encouraged Commissioner Foster to share details about the Purple Tree Lighting for the visitors. Foster explained the premise behind the program, adding that it was the Commission's second year to have the event. Goddard asked about speakers, and Foster shared that Bernetta Thigpen would be reading the governor's proclamation against domestic violence, Guilford Family Justice Center Director Catherine Johnson would be introducing Commissioner Brenda White, who would speak and share her testimony, and Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter would share at the close of the program.

Goddard invited Commissioner Lowe to provide an update on her progress. Lowe advised that work was in progress but nothing was yet established, and that she would have more to share after her committee meeting.

V. Staff Report

Jodie Stanley went over the previously shared Commission Programming Protocol. Chair Goddard added that it was important to under-promise and not commit to programming before it has been cleared with the Commission and staff. Goddard added that Council Member Marikay Abuzuaiter had sent an email earlier in the day saying that she was unable to attend but had heard many good things about the Commission lately.

Goddard encouraged commissioners to continue in the vein of respecting each other, to stay creative, work together and team up on projects.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve the August Minutes

Motion 1st: Commissioner Jasper-Morant

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Foster

Unanimous approval

VII. Announcements

Chair Goddard asked if there were any announcements or upcoming events.

VII. Recognition of Visitors and Presentations

Chair Goddard invited newly arrived visitors to introduce themselves. Lucia Morales Carnicero, originally from Spain and in Greensboro for two years, met Chair Goddard at the Women’s Resource Center and explained that she was active in the community looking for employment and helping others. She added that because of the Higher Opportunities initiative, she received two job offers and was very excited about the future. She shared that she wanted to volunteer and support the Commission.

Lakesha Holiday shared that she was introduced to the Commission by volunteering at the Women’s Equality Day Breakfast and was very thankful for the work of the Commission.

VIII. Adjournment (7:11 pm)

Motion to adjourn

Motion 1st: Commissioner White

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Lowe

Unanimous approval

Chairperson
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Approved: _____
Date