



Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2018

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 pm on the above date in Room 101H at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Deborah Goddard presiding.

Present: Chair Deborah Goddard, Commissioners Lucas-Patrick, Sevier, Foster, Bullock, Cutler, Dorley

Absent: Vice Chair Joyce Jasper-Morant, White

Council Liaison:

HRC Liaison:

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Taylor Strassburg (I)

Visitors: Janet Nagel, Sylvia Stanback, Students from UNCG, Student from Elon, Raleigh Stout

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers

Chair Goddard asked that all visitors introduce themselves and explain their objectives for attending tonight's meeting.

Janet Nagel and Sylvia Stanback came tonight to raise awareness about the risk of fluoride in Greensboro's water. Her organization is called Clean Water Greensboro. The added fluoride as a dental treatment is a non consensual health treatment and is a violation of ethics and human rights. Fluoride is a carcinogen, neurotoxin, and health inhibitor and causes specific risk to the Thyroid gland. There is especially added risk for women who are pregnant, and development of the children's nervous system. Her presentation was backed by statistics from various regions of the world in countries that have recognized the risk of fluoride in water. These countries include Mexico, China, United Kingdom, etc. A 12-year study showed there is a direct correlation between level of fluoride in the water of the women who drink it while pregnant and the IQ of children 12 years later. The study was published by the CDC

last September. Nagel asked that the Commission take this information under review and make a recommendation to city council to end fluoride in Greensboro's water.

Dr. Crossling apologized for her absence and explained that she was trapped in the stairwell of the building because she had forgotten her badge to get back into the building. Because of this delay, she was unable to prepare the usual packets of information.

Chair Goddard asked the many students to introduce themselves to the group. The students are here observing for two separate classes, either Public Health or Communications. Chair Goddard thanked them for their attendance tonight.

Raleigh Stout is here as a community volunteer that wanted to hear about some of the issues being addressed tonight.

IV. Committee Reports

Chair Report

Chair Goddard shared that Terri Goldberg reached out from the Social Justice Committee to know more about the commission's work.

Goddard shared that she hopes that CSW can market itself better, including who we are and what we do. Some topics that she wants to further work on is emotional wellness, life mapping, and financial literacy. Goddard hopes that the commission can address these issues with programs in the near future. Other issues that need to be addressed by the commission include: women in poverty, homelessness, wage earnings, and human trafficking.

Goddard welcomed the committee reports.

Domestic Violence Committee

Chair Bullock shared nothing has transpired since the last meeting.

The Human Trafficking event will be held on May 23. It may turn into a parent-teen event. World Relief has agreed to cosponsor this event with the commission.

Education Committee

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick mentioned the program April 21st at the YWCA, called "Getting Back on Track." Some of the challenges they have faced is the multitude of speakers and narrowing the selection process for the panel. She is looking for testimonials of those who have gone back to school, and those who have "gotten back on track". The goal of this program is to encourage people to go back to school and finish high school, GED, or college. The agenda will be forwarded to Chair Goddard and Jodie Stanley.

Women & Equality Committee

Chair Goddard noted that duties of this committee were transferred to Joyce Jasper Morant and Sevier. Women's Equality Day is coming up in August. Sevier mentioned that the backdrop of this event will be women's right to vote, a snapshot of look how far we've come, and look how far we still need to go. Jane Fernandez will be the keynote speaker. Her topic will be that this is currently an unprecedented time in history, along with the upcoming elections. Jane Fernandez is the first graduate from a non-def university

in the entire country. She was born deaf and has self-taught how to speak. In college she even began learning French, a second language beyond English.

One of the visitors asked for a background of the event. Goddard replied that it is an annual breakfast.

Health Committee

Commissioner Sevier reminded the commission of the combining of the health committee and aging committee. Sevier shared the three activities that they are working on this year. The first is staying safe, including home safety (falls, accessibility), policing, and fraud. The second event is focused on aspects of health, including caregiving and nutrition. And the third program is focused on mental health and memory.

Committee for the Aging

Chair White was not in attendance.

Leadership Committee

Chair Goddard stated that they will have an event May 16th called Passion to Purse, for women who have ideas to start a business but do not necessarily have the funds or capital to undergo the process. The keynote speaker is a graduate of the Passion to Purse program.

Goddard mentioned they are hoping to have another event later this year, but nothing is scheduled yet.

Staff Report

Dr. Crossling briefly stated that there will be a new development of a Summer Gala to celebrate human rights workers, and how commissioners are working towards the betterment of our community. The award will be called the "Human Relations..." and it will be vetted by members of the commission, along with Human Relations staff. Jodie and Love will make parameters of who can achieve this award, how it will be given, and others in the community that should be considered outside of the commissions. Crossling hopes it is a similar award to the Mosaic Award, which used to be given out in the City of Greensboro. Soon there will be a draft outline of this award and the gala that accompanies it and sent to all commissioners of IAC, CSW, and HRC.

Also, Dr. Crossling mentioned that the city is approaching the last quarter of the fiscal year, meaning it is time to look at the commission's vision moving forward. The conversation needs to address the different work schedules of the coming year (meaning after July). What are the goals- existing goals, and future goals? There will be meetings to discuss this in the near future.

Commissioner Lucas Patrick asked when the Summer Gala would take place. Crossling responded June of this year. After this inaugural year, there will be a need for community response, evaluation, and changes that need to be made. There must be limited awards, along with criteria for those who are awarded (we will not be giving out 400 awards).

Chair Goddard asked about the Fair Housing Luncheon. Crossling responded that there will be one more invitation sent out to the commission for a last minute meeting to solidify speakers at the Fair Housing Luncheon. She wants to make sure Commissioner Bullock has a role in the final meeting as she heads the Domestic Violence Committee.

Goddard passed around marketing materials to the students in the room. Crossling asked students to take a picture of the flyers. Crossling also mentioned that a packet of information will be emailed to students in attendance in the following days.

V. Approval of Minutes

Goddard mentioned that there are no minutes to improve today.

Dorley mentioned “My Sister My Village,” a program for women of different cultures to express their talents, specifically talents that aren’t necessarily recognized by American standards. Often in America, women of other cultures hold jobs where they do housekeeping services, instead of cooking, sewing, teaching, nursing, etc. that they may have done in their home country. The event will be held at A&T on April 14th, and cost of attendance is \$25. Flyers will be sent out in the next week.

Goddard mentioned a facility being built and devoted to women at Barbara Park. The funding for this facility will be money left by Ruth Whicker. It will have aspects of museums, showcasing women’s history. Several people are at the planning table, but Mrs. Whicker has asked that someone be present from the Commission on the Status of Women.

Chair Goddard asked for any questions from the students in attendance.

China Walker asked the purpose of the Moment of Silence at the beginning. Goddard responded out of respect for the institution and the people around the table.

Another student asked if it is possible for students to attend these events and volunteer. Goddard responded that it is welcomed and directed them to look at the website for contact information.

China asked about the size of commission. Goddard responded that because it is a smaller commission they are able to hold a level of intimacy and close knit civil minded atmosphere.

China asked about the group’s importance in the community. Cutler responded she chose this commission because this commission had the most personal connection to her. Dorley mentioned the importance of women helping women, and empowerment of women in Greensboro. Crossling mentioned the importance of the impact to policy; the breast-density bill was created by a woman who partnered with this commission in getting the bill established. Goddard mentioned City Academy is awesome and recommends it. Goddard also mentioned that everyone at the table has different talents and expertise giving the commission a broad range of knowledge. Goddard also mentioned that it is important to serve and not be paid, it maintains a humble persona.

Goddard thanked everyone for their attendance.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1st: Commissioner Cutler

Motion 2nd: Commissioner Sevier

Unanimous Approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 7:00.

