



Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2018

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

Present: Chair Goddard, Vice Chair Morant, Commissioners Lucas-Patrick, Walston, Reaves, Sevier, Cutler

Absent:

Council Liaison: Marikay Abuzuaiter

HRC Liaison: Cynthia Coleman

Human Relations Department Staff: Love Crossling, Jodie Stanley

Visitors: Lynley SanGeorge

I. Call to Order

Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

II. Moment of Silent Meditation

Chair Goddard called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. Introduction of Visitors and Speakers:

Chair Goddard invited Lynley SanGeorge of Women Walking With Hope to share about herself and her nonprofit. SanGeorge shared that her interest in immigrant women started when she was an ESL teacher in 2013. She noted that the women shared a common stress level that impacted their ability to learn. When she invited feedback about what would help, she discovered that social connection was very important to addressing the stress. After being challenged to pursue her passion, she started gathering groups of women to simply walk together. When some of the participants became pregnant, they started hosting baby showers for women. After receiving support from various local churches and nonprofits, she began Women Walking With Hope with the goal of breaking isolation, building bridges and developing leaders.

Commissioners shared their support and admiration for her work. Sevier asked how the Commission could help. SanGeorge asked them to share the word, to donate needed supplies, share ideas, and to simply support. Sevier asked what the major nationality was. SanGeorge stated that the group changed each time due to work and family constraints. Sevier shared that there was a Congolese group meeting at United Methodist on Market St, many of whom were displaced recently. Cutler shared that the Karin group from Burma had a church at the corner of Westridge and Friendly. SanGeorge shared that any connections were appreciated. Sevier confirmed that she was with Hospice of Greensboro, adding that Hospice had been a very supportive partner.

Goddard invited HRC Commissioner Coleman to introduce herself, and congratulated HRC on a great MLK Breakfast event.

#### V. Committee Reports

Chair Goddard thanked all for supporting the HRC's MLK Breakfast and for their engagement and activity. Goddard brought their attention to the calendar, and asked commissioners to be mindful that their locations would be moving around. She also noted the roster to ensure that commissioners' contact information was updated. She asked Stanley to circulate the programming dates for 2019.

Goddard announced that there was interest from other commissions in other cities and counties to work together, and that tomorrow's event would be an opportunity to work with NC Women's Council.

Goddard also shared that Dr. Jones had shared that the HRC opted to have their own retreat. She shared a brief background of the purpose of the retreats and encouraged commissioners to think about whether they wanted to have a retreat in the future.

She reminded all commissioners to make sure to get their programming information in on time. She asked all to keep her informed of any programming ideas and changes, and encouraged them to ensure that the Commission have the opportunity to vet program speakers.

As Dr. Jones had shared previously that she would need to leave early, Goddard invited Jones to share the staff report earlier on the agenda. Jones suggested that in regards to the retreat, one suggestion would be to hold a retreat in June. That timing would allow them to think about visioning and programming for 2019-2020. They could even consider their functioning and how the commission operated and was structured. Staff would reach out for feedback on how to build the retreat, staff would create an outline that would first be vetted by the chair, and then would be rolled out to the larger group. She added a reminder that the timing may determine the topic of the retreat, depending on where the retreat would fall in the fiscal year. She added that staff was happy to support their efforts.

Cutler asked about the status of the CSW budget. Jones shared that to some degree the budget was fluid. Each commission was assigned about \$1200 per commission, but if there was a need and one commission didn't spend it, the funds could be moved around to another commission as needed. She noted that in some years, they profited from the Women's Equality Day Breakfast, but that this year there was a loss from the Equality Day Breakfast. Cutler asked if CSW would have \$1200 earmarked for their programming for the year. Jones confirmed her statement. Sevier asked about sponsorship dollars and where they would be held if they were received and how donated finances were managed. Jones noted that other bodies didn't have revenue accruing efforts, adding that the MLK Breakfast funds were

allocated ahead of time, a general fund loan to the Human Relations Department. Because of the way the MLK event was set up, if there ever was a profit, the Department would not have access to these funds. Because of the way CSW was currently set up, they had the flexibility to make a profit. Goddard asked if the \$500 negative was pulled from what was left over from other commission allotments, and Jones confirmed that yes, other bodies were less active and did not need the funds, so it was covered. Jones cautioned that in the future, if all bodies were equally active, the funds would not be available to cover such a loss from the breakfast.

Discussion was held around why the attendance at the 2018 breakfast was 100 guests lower than the 2017 event. Jones shared that Jada Monica Drew, keynote at the 2017 speaker, used her own PR tools to assist with marketing. Different speakers would draw different crowds. Commissioners suggested that in the future, perhaps it was important to work with keynote speakers to assist with marketing. Jones noted that the speaker was important. What would people spend their money to see? There needed to be a direct connection – each speaker would draw their own crowd.

Lucas-Patrick asked if sponsoring organizations were kept on the list or dropped off the list year after year. Jones confirmed that all sponsoring organizations were kept on the list. In response to Sevier's question about sponsorship, she added that it was important to note that if there was a monetary donation for an event that could be allocated. They could not take general donations. Lucas-Patrick asked if there was a way to contact potential sponsors well in advance of the event. Jones confirmed. She added that it was important to note that word of mouth was the most effective form of marketing.

Goddard stated that she valued numbers but it was a quality program, and she was pleased with the attendance. She also did not want to give any impression that they needed to compete with the MLK Breakfast. Jones added that from staff's perspective, programs were all successful, it was simply that the question of profit was impacted by attendance. Goddard added that most of their programs were very low cost.

Jones shared that the Human Relations Department was undergoing yet another staffing change. She announced that Mica Bailey was moving out of state for a job. Jones suggested that one of the difficulties with using part time staff to cover this position was that they were often transient and looking for full time work. She noted that Jodie Stanley would be spread very thin and encouraged commissioners to contact Dr. Jones directly. She added that staff was in process of looking for another roster to cover commission management but was also advocating for another full time position, but asked for their patience as another staff member would need to be trained. Staff would continually try to manage this difficulty, even as they had not received any feedback about either hiring a roster or a full time position. Cutler asked if the position was posted and Love confirmed that applications had been received.

Cutler asked what would happen if the other commissions and groups used all of their \$1200 budget, how would it impact the CSW? Jones encouraged them to really budget carefully, and to provide staff with information about how much each program would cost. Cutler suggested that it would be helpful to be more involved in how much money was available. Jones confirmed again that submitting that information ahead of time was critical. Sevier suggested that many of the commissioners had spent personal money on various things for programs. Cutler stated that she didn't realize that a purchase couldn't be reimbursed.

Goddard confirmed that staff had been asked to provide standard evaluation forms for all programs. Goddard asked if Jodie Stanley would still be managing the facebook and to keep up with the postings. She stated that she didn't want to see gaps between posts. Goddard thanked all for the discussion about staff.

#### Domestic Violence Committee:

Commissioner Reaves shared that she was still working on the program for February 25, that the speaker would be Robin Hairston. They were simply waiting on the flyer to be completed to start marketing. She also noted that she was contacted by Stephanie Johnson with a teen dating and violence advocacy group to come and speak at their next meeting. Reaves shared that she planned to speak and Goddard supported her efforts to do that.

#### Education and Equality Committee:

Commissioner Lucas-Patrick shared that she had confirmed their speaker, Dr. Jesslyn Woods, and was hoping to get the flyer together by February 15. The speaker was planning to speak on how to find their purpose. She shared that the title was Your Pathway to Destiny. Goddard asked Stanley to tie in a recognition that it was Women's History Month.

Goddard shared various updates on the Equality Day Breakfast. The Commission normally hosted their event on the fourth Saturday in August, noting that staff had confirmed that the Coliseum Terrace was available on August 17. She invited updates on the Equality Day Breakfast. Lucas-Patrick shared her theme "Together we can make great things happen. Be extraordinary." Vice Chair Morant shared that she met Valda Boyd-Ford at a toastmaster's club who was featured across the globe and on many news media outlets who was dedicated to improving communication between groups and was accredited through toast masters. Lucas-Patrick expressed her support and appreciation for Valda Boyd-Ford. Sevier noted that she was a nurse and located in High Point. Goddard pointed out that she was available on August 17, and that as of their communication so far, she had not requested any funds.

If all were in agreement with the potential speaker, the only thing they had to determine was the performances.

#### Health and Wellness Committee:

Commissioner Sevier shared that the committee had not met since last time, but they still had their dates on the calendar and were moving forward with plans. Sevier noted her desire to recruit more people to come to their events and to extend their reach. Cutler suggested that they were not diversifying across City zip codes. Sevier added that they have a loyal following. March 21 and June 13 were the upcoming dates for their programs.

#### Women Leading through Service Committee:

Chair Goddard announced the event the following day at NC Works Career Center that would highlight the state of women's employment and pay equity. She mentioned various speakers that would be involved, adding that the panelists would position themselves with the audience to listen to their ideas about how to improve themselves. The goal was to enhance and develop leadership skills in women. She

encouraged commissioners to attend if possible, specifically one representative to position themselves downstairs at the lobby area to direct people upstairs. She noted that Stanley would bring the refreshments and that they may need their CSW tablecloth. Cutler and Morant shared that they would be available to attend and volunteer.

Goddard asked Stanley to check on the Nussbaum Center for April 15 part two of the LeadHerShip programs. Jada Monica Drew was a suggested speaker and Goddard mentioned that she would be sitting down with Commissioner Walston to further plan this event.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Morant requested a correction under health and wellness committee, it said June 15 and it should read June 13.

Motion to Approve the November 2018 Minutes as Amended

Motion 1<sup>st</sup>: Commissioner Morant

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Lucas-Patrick

Unanimous approval

VII. Announcements

Goddard announced the event the following day, as well as the grand opening for the Ruth Wicker project on Friday at Barber Park. Goddard planned to represent CSW at the event.

Marikay Abuzuaiter noted that Love Jones recently got married and that it was Jodie Stanley's wedding anniversary.

Goddard noted that there were not any absences to record.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion 1<sup>st</sup>: Commissioner Sevier

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Cutler

Unanimous Approval

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

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Chairperson  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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

