**Durham County Women’s Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2022**

Commissioners Present: Vivian Slade, Kirstyn Allen, Ruebe Holmes, Cynthia Bland, Laura Meyers, Tamika McRae, Patrice High, Courtney Kelly, Cheryl Ann Welsh, Tiffani Reeves, Jenny Gomez

Commissioners Excused: Aquaris Anderson

Commissioners Absent: Brianna Van Stekelenburg

**Welcome- Vivian Slade, Chair**

Vivian opened our meeting with a welcome to the new year.

**Chair Report- Vivian Slade**

Vivian announced our new intern, Sheba, has been selected and gotten started. She will serve at 25 hours per week for the spring semester, primarily supporting our communications efforts with social media work and our newsletter. Other items to be determined, but ideas include reviewing and updating our resource list. (Sheba’s email is sheba@live.unc.edu)

The Women’s Commission Vice Chair seat is currently vacant. Vivian has asked our nominating committee (Cynthia and Courtney) to reach out to all members for nominations (including self-nominations!). Be on the lookout for an email. If no candidates are present at our February meeting, we will wait to hold new nominations in June, the end of our fiscal year.

Vivian asked Patrice to update the Commission on our December service project, sponsoring a student for Christmas gifts. Monetary donations allowed the purchase of clothing, a gift card, the much wished for purse, and some household supplies for the whole family. Big thanks to members for the support!

Women NC has 4-5 scholars working on projects in Durham. Tiffani and Jenny will serve as liaisons for their work. Tiffany shared she met with a Gabrielle with Women NC who is working on a survey about childcare access in Durham County. Tiffani was able to share some resource ideas for reaching survey participants; DSS, Lincoln Health Center, and Durham Public Libraries. These presentations are due in February and will be shared with the Commission. Courtney asked if we could post the survey to our social media outlets, and Cheryl Ann inquired about sharing our resource list as well.

**Vice Chair Report- vacant**

No update.

**Treasurer’s Report- Kirstyn**

Our remaining money from the County is $12.05. Vivian added that she has still not heard about our chapter membership and has reached out to the county for next steps on getting a refund.

**Committee Updates**

* Financial Health and Wealth (formerly Social Justice Committee); update: Cynthia shared the committee found planning a job fair grew overwhelming and they are reevaluating at this time. Tamika suggested reaching out to Dress for Success of Durham for partnership as they have employment programs already in place.
* Post-Pandemic Committee update: The committee is polishing the survey and will be ready to send out soon, hopefully with Sheba’s assistance. Cynthia is available to help review questions and results.
* DV & SA Committee update: Laura had a meeting with SUSO staff but has yet to hear back about any ways DCWC can help. The committee will reach out to the LGBTQ+ Center of Durham after Ruebe suggests the Center.
* Communications Committee update: Ruebe will be working closely with Sheba in the upcoming weeks to get her work set up. The Committee has a 3-month plan for spocial media posts and newsletter content. Upcoming post themes include Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and fun things to do around Durham. There was discussion of helping fill the 25-work-hour requirement, Tamika asked if she could attend our meetings as well.
* Steering Committee- Tiffani shared that current Durham County Commissioner Nida Allam is running for Congress in NC-04.
* Vivian also asked all Commissioners to think of December Outreach options- last year we created gift baskets for women in need in Durham. Distributed through the Durham Crisis Response Center and other orgs.

**Approve November meeting minutes**

Vivian called for objections; in discussion of our December project Ruebe’s name was in place of Patrice’s. After this update is made the minutes are approved.

**New Business & Announcements**

Vivian asked for anyone with suggestions for speakers to please email her directly.

Ruebe got a promotion! She also shared the County is looking for input on the annual action plan, what needs does the community have.

Courtney shared that the City of Durham is seeking land use and development input from community members and are offering $25 gift cards to participants.

Jenny shared that after several snowy weekends and a rise in COVID numbers the Durham NC social site is reminding the community to support local by buying gift cards, getting take out, etc. Jenny and Courtney will share their Local Business lists (highlighting Black-owned Durham businesses) and remind everyone to skip the delivery apps and order direct!

Lots of members have fantastic social media channels and shared out- please email those links!

Vivian closed the meeting.