**Durham County Women’s Commission (DCWC) Minutes**

**5/22/2017**

The meeting was called to order 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Tankard

**Commissioners Present:** Zion Tankard, Ruebe Holmes, Doreen Johnson, Sandra Howell, Joy Spencer, Shelia Arias, Kristen Powers, Joelle Davis Carter and Anna Davis, Shauna Johnson

**Guest: Gloria DeLos Santos (Action NC)-gloria@actionnc.org**

**NC Women’s Commission Brunch Meeting**

Commissioner Tankard provided an update on the outcomes of the NC Women’s Commission Brunch. The surveys from the program suggested that we ask for more money and resources to sponsor such programs. It was stressed that we need a budget to achieve and accomplish our objectives of the Durham Women’s Commission.

The attendance was lower than anticipated but there was still strong representative from our County Commissioners. Chairwoman Tankard re-emphasized the feedback from the surveys and the email correspondence she continued to receive even after the event.

**Update-CEDAW Ordinance**

Commissioner Tankard mentioned our partnership with Women NC and the work on the CEDAW Ordinance. The ordinance centers on critical women issues such as pay equity, abuse, hiring and opportunities for women. She indicated that we had a meeting with the County attorney and discovered that we can not pass any legislation or law that interrupts or contradicts what the State has already passed. The second plan (Plan B) is to pass a resolution that will show that we have support from the County. Tankard distributed a copy of the resolution for members to review and indicated that it does include funding for our commission’s efforts. We only have $500 in our budget and there will a meeting to discuss a possible increase in funding.

Commissioner Johnson asked if we have shown or demonstrated what we have been able to do with $500. Commissioner Tankard indicated that we have asked for increases before but informed that we receive more than some of the other commissioners. Commissioner Johnson reiterated the importance of showing the county commissioners what we have accomplished on a little. Tankard reported that she had submitted a request for more funding and meeting has been arranged for Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 1pm to meet with the County Manager. She has never met with the manager before but suggested that the time is now to request an increase. Other commissioners were invited to join Commissioner Tankard for the meeting. Commissioner Howell agreed to attend the meeting with Commissioner Tankard. Commissioner Johnson stressed that we demonstrate the creative ways that we have made $500 stretch throughout the year.

Commissioner Howell mentioned the importance and explained the ways that we can fundraise and create a stronger development strategy. She also stated that our members should not have to come out of their pockets to cover expenses associated with our programs. Commissioner Tankard that the Commission has been existence for 30 years and in her 5 years of leadership we have only ever received $500.

There was a discussion about how women need more access to positions and jobs and even often times outperform men. Additional discussion was presented about how roles of women have shifted and that women can produce more in the political arena and through the employment opportunities.

**Donations Accepted for Commissioner Family Lost**

Commissioner Tankard mentioned that we were taking donations for an arrangement the Commission sent to Commissioner Rosa’s husband’s death. Commissioner Kim Cameron purchased the arrangement and the donations will be used to reimburse her.

**Meeting with the County Manager**

Commissioner Tankard and other members will meet with the County Manager on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. Commissioners Howell and Johnson suggested that we request high (e.g. $1000-$1500) in order to achieve more funding for our programs.

**Social Issues and Policy Updates**

Commissioner Holmes reported that May is Women’s Health Month. She also noted that Medicaid had been cut and it will be a detriment to women and children in particular. More than 800 million dollars has been cut. There are several issues on the table (In the Senate in particular) so she encouraged the commissioners to pay close attention to emerging issues. Meredith College released a “Status of Girls” report and collects information from high schools and agencies that support girls. In NC, girls are gaining in areas of education across all ethnic groups (e.g. graduation and student athletics primarily). Other key points are that girls make up two-thirds of student council and government leaders in high school. The more concerning elements of the report are that girls of color (Native American, African American and Latina) are more likely to be victims of bullying and sexual assault.

**Women’s Forum:**

The recommended dates for the forum this fall are October 12th and 19th. The focus of topics for the forum mentioned in the last meeting included women in leadership and politics, the overall state of women and health care. Women Helping Women was also a key theme mentioned from the commissioners. Commissioner Tankard has been researching locations for the Forum. Several locations are out of the Commission’s price range ($150 per hour for some facilities). Tankard mentioned that we could use the Durham Human Services Building for free because we are a County-based organization. Commissioners mentioned reserving local libarires as well.

Commissioners Howell and (?) mentioned using space at the local high schools like Hillside High School and churches. Chair Tankard noted that we would table confirming a location at this moment until we can look into other options.

**Nominating Committee (Elections)**

Commissioner Tankard transitioned into a discussion regarding elections and noted that the committee consisted of herself and Commissioner Holmes and Gabriel. Nominations were for Zion (Chair), Kimberly (Vice Chair), Shauna and Joy (Treasurer) and Secretary (Anna). Joelle stated that she is not interested at this time. Commissioner Tankard called for a vote and there were questions regarding the attendance of individuals on the nominating committee and ballot. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the ballot and how we approached the process. Commissioner Howell indicated several concerns about the process and noted that she has experience in dealing with election process.

Commissioner Howell noted that anyone running for office must be present. The group decided that we will table the nominations for the next meeting in June. Commissioner Johnson moved that we table nominations until the next meeting.

**May Meeting Minutes**:

Commissioner Tankard asked members to review last month’s minutes that were recorded by Commissioner Joy Spencer. One correction was on one of the Commissioner’s names. Kristen Powers. Commissioner Johnson moved that we accept the minutes with corrections and Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

**2017 DCWC Meetings:** The remaining meetings will be held on June 26th; July 24th; August 28th; September 25th; October 23rd; and November 27th.

**Treasurer’s Report**: No report

**Guest Speaker Comments: Tara Marino (focus: Women Reproductive Rights)**

Key comments: Executive Director for NC Reproductive Services. She noted that her organization is focused on advocacy and reproductive rights but NOT services. The organization is also focused on protection for sexual abuse and advocacy. It is important to note the organization does support abortion and education for women. They have partnerships with agencies such as Planned Parenthood.

Meeting Adjourned 7pm.

Respectfully submitted

Joelle Davis Carter