**Durham County Women’s Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 25, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Milicia Tedder, Kirstyn Allen, Sara Bausch, Cynthia Bland, Laura Meyers, Ruebe Holmes, Aquaris Anderson, Jenny Gomez, Tamika McRae, Cheryl Ann Welsh, Patrice High, Lucia Ferejohn, Brianna Van Stekelenburg

Commissioners Excused: Patti Black

Commissioners Absent: K.D. Ann Welsh

Commission Guests: Mary Williams Stover, Shauna Cooper, Cameron Dubois, Tamara Terry

**Welcome- Vivian Slade, Chair**

Vivian called the meeting to order with a welcomed our guests.

**Chair Report- Vivian Slade**

The Executive Committee held a meeting Saturday, January 24.

The Executive Committee Meeting minutes were sent out on Sunday, January 25. Vivian reported that the By-Law updates are a consent items on the agenda of the County Commissioner’s February 1 work session. Vivian will attend to answer any questions. The By-Law updates will then be presented for a vote on the County Commissioner’s regular session on February 8. One known change from our updates is that the member roster must be an odd number, so will adjust from 18 to 19 members. We currently have 2 vacancies.

Vivian requests that sub-committees submit goals and intentions for this year to her by 5pm Friday, January 29.

Vivian shared an update on our website, and showed a sneak-peak of the current draft. We will have member photos and bios, events, and our newsletter available. Patrice suggested adding any pre-covid photos of the Commission, if possible. Cheryl Ann suggests adding easy to find links to County Commissioner meetings.

The website is paid for by the UNC funds for 3 years. Vivian turned the meeting over to Shauna Cooper with UNC:

Shauna and her team are in year 2 of partnership with Durham County Women’s Commission. Shauna’s work focuses on girls and women and hopes funding a website for the Commission increases our visibility. The website is being created by a female web designer and three graduate students. The Women’s Commission will own the site and the backdoor is simple and should be easy to update. Vivian will send any additional feedback to Shauna. Jenny requests we have a walk-thru of the site content and back end when it is complete.

Shauna’s team also conducts research identifying key issues for girls and women in Durham. They are working on creating other relevant materials like infographics and video interviews (though interviews were interrupted by Covid, hope to be picked back up next semester). Shauna also asks if the Women’s Commission may be interested in a girl’s civic engagement panel, something interactive for young women and girls who started a nonprofit or are engaged in activism in Durham. An ideal date is March 8, International Women’s Day, though April may be better.

**Vice Chair Report- Jenny**

Jenny shared the google calendar with all. Members can edit current dates, add new ones. Reach out to Jenny if you need any assistance. SUSO (Stand Up, Speak Out) will come to our February meeting, discussing domestic violence in Durham, the impact of the pandemic on this issue, and any legislative actions or motions the Women’s Commission may want to consider.

Vivian would like the Commission Members to give thought to Legislative work, and we will discuss in February. Joy mentioned partnering with other organizations already doing policy work could be a good opportunity.

**Treasurer’s Report- Vivian on behalf of Patti**

We still have our full County-issued funding of $500.

**Committee Updates**

* Black Maternal Health (Joy, Tamika, Lucia) update: Lucia has joined the committee. Joy is gathering results of survey to have finalized by February. The Committee is also looking into partnering with Council for Women and Youth Involvement for a panel in the spring.
* Social Justice Committee (Aquaris, Cynthia, Patti) update: Aquarius has been in touch with the HR Director at IBM, initiating a conversation about having a coalition for underserved community to learn more about the skills, opportunities, and jobs in current growing fields. Hopes to roll this out by DPS Spring Break.
* Communications Committee (Ruebe and Milicia) update: February social media will focus on Black Women’s History in Durham.

**Approve November meeting minutes**

Meeting minutes approved by Jenny and seconded by Cynthia.

**Guest Presentations:**

**Tamara Terry with RTI**

Tamara brought us a powerful presentation about turning words into actions of positive change, and how to deepen understanding of equality, diversity, and inclusion, and understanding the systematic racism and how the pandemic highlights this issue even further. Tamara will share some of the touch points of her presentation; some action items include creating partnerships and sponsorships with Black lead entities, making conscious effort in supporting Black-owned businesses, and creating a diverse workforce within your organizations.

**Mary Williams Stover with NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement**

Mary shared that the Council will host events for Women’s History Month in March, including the impact of COVID-19 on women in North Carolina.

**Announcements:**

The Mayor’s Council for Women would like to host a joint meeting in February to learn about what each group is doing and discuss collaboration. Vivian will send out possible date.

Tamika is working on virtual yoga course for us to share- dates to come!

The 2021 meeting schedule has been posted, though November will shift to November 15, to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday. December is typically brunch with County Commissioners in lieu of a meeting, leaving December TBD.

Vivian closed the meeting.