

DURHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION (DCWC)

MEETING SUMMARY

APRIL 23, 2012

Present: Rosa Anderson, Heidi Marks, Marissa Streyle, Jina Dhillon, Jocelyn Harper, Stephanie Watson, Carnetta Reid, Sandra Davis, Tammy Ferrell

Absent: Debra Wallace, Diana Freeman, Lois Murphy, Sharon Mullen, Danielle Kowalczyk, Shonda Santos

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

II. Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report, however no additional charges have been made to the account since March meeting. The cost of the nametags for new members was \$32.03.

III. Old Business

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Regarding our previous discussion about a 'get out the vote' type event, the DCWC still has the opportunity to partner with NC Women United. Commissioner Dhillon described the opportunity of co-hosting Women's Agenda Assemblies, which are policy discussions. The host of the Assembly selects the issues and it is non-partisan so the DCWC and NC Women United of Durham would have the opportunity to frame the Assembly. The goal is that after the forum the attendees are able to speak confidently about their issues.

An Assembly could possibly be held in August or September, at the very latest October. The DCWC expressed great interest in the partnership and Commissioner Dhillon will head up the effort.

Commissioner Streyle will send Commissioner Howerton minutes from March 8 event.

IV. New Business

Commissioner Marks reported that she represented the DCWC at a forum convened by Annette Taylor who runs NC Center for Women in Public Service at NC Central University discussion why women choose to volunteer their time in public service. There are more than 400 boards and commissions statewide, however women's representation is particularly low on the 'power' boards across the state.

In an effort to better understand the services available in the County and needs of service providers, Commissioner Marks suggested that at each Commission meeting a number of speakers are invited to attend to speak briefly (about 5 minutes) about their work in the community. Commissioners were asked to extend invitations to speakers or provide their names to Commissioner Marks. Suggested speakers included: Annette Taylor; Victoria Petersen (she would speak on conditions for women in jails); Treat Harvey of the Emily K Center; Heidi Carter, member of the school board; representative from League of Women

Voters; representative from Juvenile Crime Prevention Commission; representative from the co-op market in Durham; representative from the Women's Business Center of North Carolina; representative from Latino organizations; representative from the Estair Woods Foundation (focus on immigration issues); and Chimi Boyd Keyes director of the Women's Center at NCCU. Information gathered from the speakers would help inform the report the Commission must prepare for the County Commission.

Commissioner Marks shared with the new Commissioners a copy of the DCWC charter and bylaws. All new Commissioners will be receiving a set of documents about the Commission for background information.

At future meetings Commissioners are welcome to share any community events they are aware of.

April 28, 1pm rally for Unite Women in Raleigh

May 8 County and State elections

June 2 is the Animal Protection Society of Durham's Walk for Animals on Duke's East Campus.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn at 6:58pm.