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

8/28/2017

Commissioner Tankard called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She welcomed new members and asked everyone present to introduce themselves. She indicated several members have moved on from the commission, but that several new members have been gained.

**Commissioners Present**: Zion Tankard, Shauna Johnson, Joy Spencer, Rosa Anderson, Reube Holmes, Lisa Gabriel, Brenda Blue, Milicia Tedder, K.D. Ann Welsh, Anna Davis

**Commissioners Absent**: Leilani Morgan, Milicia Tedder, Kim Cameron, Doreen (Last name?)

**Women’s Equality Day & March August 25 and 26 Review:**

Commissioner Walsh gave an update about the presentation on Friday, August 25th. She said it was an incredible presentation.

The Women’s March was on August 26th. Several commissioners participated. Commissioner Tankard said that 2000 people attended. The event was featured on Spectrum news and celebrated the anniversary of the 19th Amendment-Women’s Right to Vote. Commissioner Gabriel gave a brief overview of a women’s presentation held in Greensboro on the same morning.

**REI Groundwater Forum**

Commissioner Tankard attended the recent REI (Racial Equality Institute) forum. She said the program explained how racial inequality effects every aspect of life including education and health care. She said it was eye opening, and she gave one example about research conducted on hospitals in low-income areas. She learned that many medical residents enjoy working in these hospitals due to the high level of responsibility they have. However, this results in less experience physicians carrying higher patient loads which results in a lower quality of care. For example, among these populations there are higher rates of infant mortality. According to this research, this reality disproportionately affects the medical care of people of color.

**Update From Chair Tankard on Vice-Chair Cameron’s behalf Regarding November Forum:**

The 30th Anniversary of the Women’s Commission will be celebrated at a lunch event from 11:30-1:30 on Thursday, November 30th at the Durham Co. Health and Human Services Building. There was a question about whether we could charge for the lunch to cover costs. Staff Liaison Michelle said she believed this is possible, but asked to double check with her office. Commissioner Tankard said that all members of the Commission may invite guests. The Commission will invite all past Commissioners who can be located.

**Update From the CEDAW Committee:**

Commissioner Spencer stated that she hopes to present the CEDAW resolution to County Commissioners on September 5th. Commissioner Tankard said we have met with every CC except for County Commissioner Hill.

**Update from the Steering Committee:**

No update offered at this meeting due to the presence of two guest speakers.

**Approval of Minutes**

The July 2017 Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

There was a discussion about giving $100 of our budget to the Women’s March organizers for sound system costs. The Commissioner decided to hold the vote until after we know whether we can charge for our 30 Year Tribute Lunch.

**Speaker/Ms. Shirrell Thomas, Durham Crisis Response Center:**

Ms. Thomas returned with more information and a calendar of events for October which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She suggested the Commission partner with DCRC by donating supplies to the shelter. She stated that there is a candlelight vigil on October 3rd honoring domestic violence victims. She thanked Commissioner Blue and Commissioner Johnson for attending the Durham Women’s Club Tea in August.

**Speaker/Ms. Linda Chappell, Childcare Services Association**

Ms. Chappell gave a presentation about early childhood education in Durham. Many states across the country have seen dividends from increased investment in early childhood education with an emphasis on 4 year olds. This has not occurred in NC. In NC, researchers find that many children are already behind in kindergarten. There are not enough spaces for most 4 year olds.

A Durham Early Childhood Education Task Force was created. They conducted a study and found that existing services for EC education require very low income which leaves many families without services. The study identified how many children in Durham are in need of services, the economic cost of investments in these programs, and how the programs could be funding. Ms. Chappell emphasized the importance of high-quality early childhood education as low-quality programs do not make a positive difference.

Using a PowerPoint, Ms. Chappell gave an in-depth overview of the study’s findings. Rather than outline them here, please refer to the presentation itself.

Commissioner Tankard adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.