Durham Women’s Commission

March 26, 2018

Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners Present:**

Briana Van Steklenburg, Tamika McRae, Ruebe Holmes, Vivian Slade, Doreen Johnson, Joy Spencer, Zion Tankard, Milicia Tedder, K.D. Ann Walsh, Cecilia Polanco, Anna Davis, Aquaris Moore-Anderson

**Commissioners Absent:** Lelani Morgan, Olivia Horton, Kim Cameron, Brenda Blue, Shauna Johnson, Stephanie Forman

Co-Chair Zion Tankard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**New Member Introduction**

The Commission welcomed new member, Aquaris Moore-Anderson.

**May Meeting**

Due to Memorial Day, the May meeting will be moved to Tuesday, May 29 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Event Review**-Commissioners shared about events they attended in March-Women’s History Month. Events attended were: 9th Annual Local to Global Event Fundraiser at NC State Hunt Library honoring Juanita Bryant (March 8); Early Childhood Forum which recognized childhood trauma and its lingering effects on adulthood. Commissioner Spencer shared findings from a study conducted by an insurance company that found that adults who experienced childhood trauma have shorter lifespans. The Durham Pre-K Task Force was discussed which examined the effects of early childhood education on kindergartners. The Commission is supporting this broad initiative and has an early childhood education subcommittee. The forum discussed barriers to young children gaining the tools they need to start kindergarten. Immigration is currently a big barrier. Due to fears of deportation, many immigrants are not accessing medical and educational services (March 10). Durham Women’s Forum featured a number of issues focused on women’s issues. Commissioner Slade shared that it was an empowering event. (March 22)

**Annual Report on Domestic Violence**

This subcommittee consists of Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner McRae, Commissioner Van Stekelennburg, and Commissioner Davis. Commissioner Tedder agreed to join this subcommittee. A breakout session was scheduled for this meeting to discuss the report, but is postponed until April so that Ms. Sherill Thomas of Durham Crisis Response Center can join the discussion. The subcommittee will present this report to the Commissioners on August 6, 2018.

**Treasurer Report:**

The result of the vote is to spend the remaining budget on tote bags and ink pens with the Commission logo. These items will be used as speaker gifts and at events. Commissioner Spencer will provide an update of specific numbers at the April meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings**-The Commission meeting for April 23 will be moved to 7:00 p.m. due to the Durham County Volunteer Appreciation Event. The Appreciation Event will be held from 5:00-7:00. Refreshments will be served. Each Commissioner will receive a certificate.

**Durham Mayor’s Council**

This council has formed, and the Commission will be looking for ways to partner with the council.

**Champions for Change**: Commissioner Holmes reported that four families were able to move out of a shelter into housing. The move includes financial assistance and assistance obtaining household items. Champions for Change partner with Families Moving Forward.

**Announcements**

March 28th-NC Council for Women Governor’s Dinner-Chair Tankard was invited to attend.

April 7th-NCCU Women’s Health Day

**PRESENTATION: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

Jennifer Hulick presented on the work of this organization. The organization is nonpartisan and supports anyone who is for common sense gun legislation. Over the weekend of March 24, there were 17 marches in NC for common sense gun reform. Approximately, 2000 joined the Durham March. Before Parkland, there were eight chapters in NC, now there are over 20. Their budget is $2000.

Co-Chair Tankard adjourned the meeting at 7:06.