Durham Women’s Commission

June 24, 2019

Meeting Minutes

**Commissioners Present:**

Zion Tankard,Ruebe Holmes, Joy Spencer, Brianna Van Stekelenburg, Patti Black, Aquaris Moore-Anderson, Tamika McRae, Milicia Tedder, Sarah Bausch, Vivian Slade, Olivia Horton K.D. Ann Welsh, Michelle Laws, Cynthia Bland

**Commissioners Absent:** Kim Cameron, Elizabeth Morrell, Stephanie Forman, Shauna Johnson

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

**Chair Report**

Cynthia Bland was introduced as a new member of the Women’s Commission.

The Reproductive Rights Statement will be presented to the County Commissioners on a date in August.

Please complete Commissioner Tankard’s survey about women’s commission.

Women’s Commission flyers- A poll will be sent out to choose the top 3 flyer drafts.

The Nominating Committee presented their slate of nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The nominees were voted on and approved- Chair: Vivian Slade; Vice-Chair: Ruebe Holmes; Treasurer: Patti Black; Secretary: K.D. Ann Welsh.

**Vice-Chair Report**

There have been two successful workshops on women & entrepreneurship. The partnership with the Links, Inc. will continue with the Accelerator Business Program. Women can apply and will be selected by September. They will be paired with a mentor and the winner will get to showcase their business at the Links Fashion Show, Shades of Green.

**Treasurer Report:** Commissioner Holmes reported that there is $38.48 in the budget. The new budget rolls over in July with $500. There is not enough time in the fiscal year to spend and process the remaining $38.48.

**CEDAW Committee**

Beth Dehghan has stepped down after 10 years as Director of Women NC. Mary Thompson named the Interim Director.

**Steering Committee Report**

Commissioner Holmes mentioned the Durham Comprehensive Plan and the Opportunity to be a Neighborhood Ambassador. An article from Carolina Public Press discussed the increasing number of women owned businesses in NC. Women are seeking more leadership roles and more flexibility where the glass ceiling is not an issue. Women need policies that provide financial, technical and social support as well as addressing the lack of access to financial options with less risk especially for low income and women of color. NC has 330,000 businesses owned by women, employing 250,000 people and generating $40 Billion annually.

The Minority /Women Business Enterprise Ordinance in Durham County has been in place for a decade and helps women and minorities participate in the procurement process, access to project managers and knowledge about county projects.

**May Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Moore-Anderson; seconded by Commissioner Laws; motion carried.

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Michelle Laws: Mental Health and Mental Illness Presentation**

Mental Health is the large umbrella under which Mental illness falls. Mental Illness is Multifactorial: genetic, non-physiologic, high stress, Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma, environment, age, etc. Anxiety disorders are the most common; 48.1 million Americans with anxiety disorders. Instead of PTSD, for some populations including black and Immigrant communities they experience DOTS or Daily Ongoing Traumatic Stressors.

**Announcements**

The next Women’s Commission meeting will be on July 22, 2019.

Chair Tankard adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.