**Durham County Women’s Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 25, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Vivian Slade, Kirstyn Allen, Ruebe Holmes, Brianna Van Stekelenburg, Cynthia Bland, Laura Meyers, Tamika McRae, Patrice High, Courtney Kelly, Aquaris Anderson, Lucia Ferejohn, Jenny Gomez

Commissioners Excused: Cheryl Ann Welsh, Tiffani Reeves

Commissioners Absent: Cheryle Johnson

**Welcome- Vivian Slade, Chair**

Vivian called the meeting to order and announced Sherril Thomas has resigned from the Commission; 2 vacancies will be posted and open for nominees soon.

**Chair Report- Vivian Slade**

Vivian is looking into our membership with National Association of Commissions for Women. Fees were paid in August 2021, but no communication has been received and DCWC is not yet listed on their website. The County is aware and Vivian hopes to have an update at our next meeting.

The Executive Committee met directly after last month’s meeting with Dr. Shauna Cooper at UNC. The Commission will work with Shauna and on grants for 2022. Applications open in January; one grant is for $2k and one for $6k. Vivian also started conversations with a possible UNC intern to work with DCWC next semester. Internships are 30 hours per week, and the DCWC intern would likely focus on communications.

Vivian also met with Maria Riemann of WomenNC to connect with one of their scholars and collaborate on the Scholar’s project (focused on the effects of the pandemic on affordable childcare and the impact on working mothers). One member of DCWC needs to be the lead contact for the scholar- Vivian asked for volunteers. Please reach out to Vivian after our meeting if you are able to help.

December brunch- Vivian asked the Commission if we are interested in an in-person December event this year. Heated outdoor options are preferred- suggestions include Honeysuckle at Lakewood, Durham Hotel rooftop, or Hope Valley Diner (is this one outside?). Vivian will look into these suggestions.

**Vice Chair Report- Lucia arrived late**

No update.

**Treasurer’s Report- Kirstyn**

No update/no change in our account.

**Committee Updates**

* Financial Health and Wealth (formerly Social Justice Committee); update: Cynthia shared the committee would like to set a theme for the event; manufacturing may be the focus. The Committee would like feedback from the group on theme. Input from the Commission is also needed for recruiting companies. Aquaris added that the fair is intended to showcase what one can do here in the Triangle area and which jobs offer growth, especially for individuals who do not have 4-year degrees. Aquaris also suggested thinking around the global supply chain issues and which industries are impacted and therefore hiring. Cynthis posed the question on whether a job fair is relevant right now. Aquaris suggests a focus on supporting populations who need it most currently. February is the target month for the event, with breakout rooms and several sectors including tech, research, and pharma. Lucia will send a google doc to the whole commission for collaboration.
* Post-Pandemic Committee update: Kirstyn shared that the committee is polishing the survey and will be ready to send out soon.
* DV & SA Committee update: No update; but more members needed.
* Communications Committee update: The committee met and created plans for November and December. Ruebe shared the link for any member to contribute ideas and/or articles for sharing. (These may also be sent directly through social media to the DCWC accounts). Tamika shared that social media interactive posts are a new way to get involvement and engagement from followers- BOLO for interactive posts around Breast Cancer Awareness month (all of October).
* Steering Committee- no update
* Vivian also asked all Commissioners to think of December Outreach options- last year we created gift baskets for women in need in Durham. Distributed through the Durham Crisis Response Center and other orgs.

**Approve September meeting minutes**

Vivian called for objections; no objections raised; minutes approved.

**New Business & Announcements**

No new business or announcements.

Vivian closed the meeting.