

DURHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION (DCWC)

MEETING SUMMARY

MARCH 26, 2012

Present: Rosa Anderson, Heidi Marks, Marissa Streyle, Jina Dhillon, Sharon Mullen, Jocelyn Harper, Stephanie Watson, Danielle Kowalczuk, Shonda Santos

Absent: Debra Wallace, Carnetta Reid, Sandra Davis, Diana Freeman, Lois Murphy

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

II. Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report. Commissioner Marks reported that the only change to the balance of funds will be payment for nametags for new members.

III. Old Business

Minutes from the February 2012 meeting were approved after the recommendation of two edits.

Discussion focused on the March 8 Forum with Commissioner Howerton. Approximately 15 people attended, and the Commission felt it was a good start for its first public forum. Commissioner Howerton was pleased with the forum. A summary of the event will be sent to the Commission for review along with the minutes for the March 26 meeting.

IV. New Business

The Commission agreed that it would like to continue doing public forums as it provides a good service to the community and helps the Commission to garner recognition in the county. Topics suggested included education, taxes, access to water, policy impact on women in the county, and the potential of partnering with NC Women United. Commissioner Dhillon will present the opportunity to work with NC Women United at the next Commission meeting. June was suggested as the next potential date for a forum.

Facebook and a newsletter were suggested as tools for marketing Commission events. Commissioner Marks will reach out to Mike Davis to determine whether or not the commission can use social media. In addition, she will research Carolina Women's Magazine for women's organizations in the area as well as determine whether there is an opportunity to place editorials in the magazine.

The Commission discussed whether there was time and interest to do an event before the May 8 election. For consideration this election are five County Commission positions, three seats on the Board of Education and Amendment One. The group determined it would not be possible to create its own event, but Commissioners agreed to attend candidate forums before the election to represent the Commission and raise questions of concern to the county's women. For example, questions related to early childhood education, women's health issues not specifically identified in the County strategic plan, business

opportunities/benefits for female entrepreneurs, whether or not the strategic plan will touch the entire county, parental support for education, and health reform.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Mullen moved to adjourn at 7:03pm.