

DURHAM COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION
PO Box 1642 Durham, NC 27702

MEETING MINUTES

November 23, 2009
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
County Manager's Conference Room
200 E. Main Street, 2nd Floor, Durham, NC

Kimberly Monroe, Chairwoman, Presiding

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Rosa Anderson Luci McMillan Kimberly Monroe Jacqueline Olich Julie Omohundro Stacy Nicole Robinson Deborah Wallace	Marian Andrews Bridgette Hall Iheoma Iruka Barbara Mezo Hope Murdock Paula Perez Stephanie Watson

Call to Order

Chairwoman Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

Public Comment Section

No comments.

Minutes

Chairwoman Monroe asked the Commissioners to review the minutes from the September and October meetings, but they were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Chair Comments

Domestic Violence Vigil: After Yvonne Peña attended the last meeting to explain the Mayor's Domestic Violence Task Force and the Domestic Violence Vigil that will take place next month, and after email correspondence between Commissioner Howerton, Yvonne Peña, Commissioner Woodard, and Yvonne Dunlap, the City and County are going to do a separate Domestic Violence Vigil from the community vigil being held at Union Baptist Church. The DCWC body has expressed concern that the entire body did not come back together to discuss participating in the community event, and the DCWC named appeared on a draft of the flier that went out to Commissioner Howerton. Commissioner Anderson explained that her issue is not with the community vigil, but that she disapproves of any one person speaking for the DCWC Board or going against protocol. Also noted was that Commissioner Howerton asked the Board to participate, and we are a subsidiary of the Durham County Commissioners. We cannot succeed if we're on the outside and not involved. Commissioner Omohundro stated that there's no reason why individuals

cannot attend the community event on their own. Additionally, if our name is going to appear as sponsor/co-sponsor of an event, we should be able to collaborate with the planners and actually have input in the planning and preparation. Commissioner Olich proposed the idea of drafting an email from the DCWC to Yvonne Dunlap, planner of the community vigil, expressing regret that since protocol was not properly followed, we will not be able to attend as a body. We support the mission and in the future, if we have earlier notice, we can gather more resources and be more effective. Commissioner Anderson reminded members who attended the planning retreat that we did discuss wanting to collaborate on the community vigil, and that it would be brought to the board when more information was made available in terms of a date and the agenda. Commissioner Olich also suggested sending an email to Yvonne Dunlap and Yvonne Peña listing the proper protocol that has to happen next year for us to participate as a Board. Chairwoman Monroe liked of the idea of sending out an email to Yvonne Dunlap stating the commitment that the DCWC has made to the City/County event. Commissioner Anderson posed the question, what is the process of determining partnerships? Commissioner Olich suggested that the member who is interested in a particular partnership take the idea to Chairwoman Monroe, then to the DCWC body, and let the possible partner know that we will follow up with them on a stated date. The date for the City and County vigil is December 10th at 5:30PM and the community vigil is December 14th at 6:00PM.

County Ethics Training: After attending training, Chairwoman Monroe shared with the Board a few key items that we need to keep in mind. First, it's important to remember that we are county officials/government officials, and should act accordingly. Secondly, there is an attendance policy in place for the Board. We have to make sure that attendance is kept and rosters are submitted to the appropriate person. Chairwoman Monroe noted that it is extremely difficult to get work done if people are absent. Commissioner Omohundro asked if it's possible to have the minutes approved via email since having quorum has been difficult. Commissioner McMillan stated that years back on a Board, a survey was sent out to members asking why they were not attending meetings. After missing two consecutive meetings, members were asked to resign. It appears that members are taking the attendance policy too lightly. Commissioner Anderson made the point that if a particular member is given a task, it shouldn't take them extended time beyond what is reasonable and expected to complete that task. Also, if each member has a task assigned to them, it would help to change the lack of attendance. We have to tighten up and make each other accountable. Chairwoman Monroe also let the Board know that we cannot have ballot elections because they are considered secret ballots and we are an open body.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Anderson would like to see a written report stating the balance so that at the end of the year, it isn't brought to the body that there is no money remaining.

Committee Reports

November 7 Planning Meeting/Retreat: Some of the ideas that were taken from the planning meeting were that it's important for the DCWC to be inclusive and make sure that we include all women from all walks of life. In order to get work done, it's imperative that committees are formed and tasks divided up.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairwoman Monroe adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by:
Stacy Nicole Robinson, Secretary
Durham County Commission for Women