



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The twenty first meeting of the DC Commission for Women was held July 3, 2014 in Room G-9 of the historic John A Wilson building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

The following members were present:

Toayoa Aldridge (via phone)	Susan Henriques-Payne (via phone)
Ann Barnet	Mary Ivey
Marian Bennett	Princess McDuffie (via phone)
Wilma Bonner	Claudia McKoin (absent)
Lorraine Carter (absent)	Jill Morrison
Niki Charles (via phone)	Nona Richardson (excused absence)
Crystal Espie (excused absence)	Latisha Atkins (Executive Director)
Anne Garcia	Lisa Adams (OWPI Staff)
Cynthia Harrison	Jackie Cortez (OWPI Intern)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Anne Garcia at 7:15 pm due to technical difficulties with room set up.

Introduction of New Intern/Website Updates

Jackie Cortez, OWPI intern, introduced herself to the Commission and provided bio information for everyone. She was welcomed. She also shared the new Facebook page and stated that she will be responsible for working on a summer newsletter for the OWPI and assisting with the planning of the Women's Policy conference. She encouraged everyone to like our Facebook page and to stay abreast of all activities through our Facebook page. Jackie will be enrolling in Prince George's Community College in the Fall and will major in Nutrition.

Introduction of New Commissioner

Commissioner Princess McDuffie was sworn in on Friday, June 20th as the newest member of the Commission. This was her first meeting of the Commission. Mrs. McDuffie shared her background information with the Commission and shared how she was pleased to a part of this rewarding effort.

Princess McDuffie is a Treatment Specialist at Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), a federal government agency in Washington, DC that provides close supervision of offenders. She facilitates court-ordered domestic violence, family violence and anger management programs for offenders convicted of offenses of a domestic nature. Along with providing crisis intervention and problem-solving techniques, Mrs. McDuffie frequently collaborates with community-based organizations to assist offenders with successful re-entry into the community.

Prior to joining CSOSA, she served as a Programs Analyst with the Coalition for the Homeless, assisting with the delivery of services to homeless men and families throughout the District of Columbia. Mrs. McDuffie began her career as a Case Manager and Legal Advocate for victims of domestic violence at the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County. A native Washingtonian, Mrs. McDuffie graduated from Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from South Carolina State University and her Master's of Arts in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. McDuffie lives in Ward 5 with her husband and their two daughters. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, jogging, and crafting.

Updates from Committees and Discussion of Fall Policy Conference Planning

Dialogue on the flexibility of day change from Saturday, October 18th to a weekday in October was discussed, votes were tallied and the final vote was to keep the conference scheduled for Saturday, October 18th. The original venue of choice, Carnegie Library will not be able to accommodate the October 18th scheduled date; as a result, we will focus on a second viable option. UDC was the alternate location. OWPI staff stated that that would follow up with the University after the holiday to schedule a site visit in order to access the feasibility of the venue.

Discussion of keynote speaker- Commissioners requested that the list of possible speakers be distributed again and that a final vote be taken on a speaker for the event. OWPI agreed to forward the list out again and will await a final decision so that a letter to the speaker can be drafted and sent.

Commissioners discussed the overall agenda and schedule for the day and suggested that changes be made in the times of the conference. The suggestion was that the scheduled day was too long and should be cut back. Jill Morrison agreed to make noted changes in time flow and stated she would forward the updated agenda to everyone for final vote. Breakout session and information on panels are requested.

Proposed updated schedule:

9am-9:30 breakfast and registration

9:30am-10:30am

Welcome, introduction to the Commission

Framing the day, our goals

Remarks by officials in attendance
Send participants to breakout sessions

10:45am-12:30pm

Breakout sessions:

Economic security for women and their families

Health, wellness and reproductive rights

Equity in education

Safe spaces for women and girls

12:30pm-1:15pm

Lunch and Keynote speaker

1:15-1:30

Stretch break

1:30pm-2:30pm

Report back from breakout session

(emphasize that we want staffers here)

2:30pm-3:00pm

Next steps

Discussion of Dates and Continued Planning of Listening Sessions

Commission Barnett stated that the Education, Labor, and Training Committee has scheduled a listening session around Workforce Concerns for low-income mothers scheduled for Monday, July 28th at Jubilee Housing. Commission Barnett is working OWPI staff to coordinate participation of District Agencies and will forward official invite to the Commission with all pertinent details.

Commissioner Ivey is working with Iona House to coordinate a listening session around senior services.

Update on Status of New Commissioner Appointments

As of the July 3rd meeting, there were a total of 15 Commissioners. Office of Boards and Commissions is currently vetting an additional 3 potential members and if all goes well with the application process they should be sworn in during the month of July. There are still 3 vacancies that need to be filled. The Commission agreed to seek possible candidates through their respective networks. OWPI agreed to email the link to the application for the Commission out to everyone at the conclusion of the meeting.

Commissioner Charles requested follow up on the status of the application for Kelly Green. Per Lisa Adams, the Office of Boards and Commissions has not received an application for Ms. Green as of yet.

Adjournment

The Commission adjourned at approximately 8:45pm. The next Commission meeting is August 7, 2014 in Room G-9 of the historic John A Wilson building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.