



Mayor's Council for Women

Minutes

Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 @ 6:30PM

Virtual, Zoom

- I. Call to Order
- II. Announcements

- a. New Members

Cassandra Stokes- New Member- member at large (Legal aid, NCCU law)

Grace and Megan are stepping down

? Mina

- b. Board Changes

Nida is stepping down as chair and member of the council because she is being sworn in to new position in December!

Secretary will submit minutes to group and await new chair.

Nomination by Gloria and seconded by Rebecca Miel for Amie Koch to be secretary and Nana Asante-Smith to be Chair.

- III. Roll Call- (send it per their format quarterly to Lavern at the City office) Nida Allam, Rebekah Miel, Amie Koch, Cassandra Stokes, Gloria De Los Santos, Nana Asante-Smith, Jillian Johnson
- IV. Adjustments to the Agenda
- V. Ceremonial Items
 - a. Nida Allam won election
- VI. Public Comments
 - a. None
- VII. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Amie and Gloria moved – all approved
- VIII. Sub-Committee Reports
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Police training for DV response- Nida will email Mina and include the group to see what was last done per the possible meeting with the Chief of police.
 - i. Discuss what they are going to do for training
(reference the current training PPTs)
- X. New Business
 - a. Schedule for virtual meetings going forward – Amie Koch the virtual host through the city clerks office (zooms set up as webinars and host has to let people in and become participants). Keep the meeting at 6:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Amie will send out calendar invites until chair is elected.
 - b. Crown Act- Gloria will table discussion of this possible policy change until new board members come on council

- c. Juneteenth- Gloria will table discussion of this possible policy change for the city and county holiday for employees until new board members come on council
- d. DCRC- staffing changes and impact on survivors. Legal advocate, coordinator for sexual assault, shelter director and other positions were eliminated. Some people have stepped down due to working environment (Kent).
 - i. We should have a liaison to DCRC
 - 1. Establish a liaison to get better connected to the organization so when we ask questions and have recommendations it is more efficient.
 - ii. Rebekah met with Kent in January he has not gotten back to her.
 - 1. Rebekah will **email** him again for follow up- this is also documentation of our efforts (cc DMCW members)
 - a. Present to director as reaching out to partner
 - b. What is the status of how many people are being served? Is there a need for more space? What are we doing to expand the housing? What are they doing to keep residents safe due to COVID? How are they reaching out to women in Durham to let women know how they can access safe services in the midst of COVID? – we are asking this as the DMCW for survivors, we

want to represent and be in partnership, communication and accountability is important.

- c. We have heard about concerns and we want to bring this to the director to see what the resolve may be- we are doing our due diligence

2. If we do not hear back we will take next steps (after Nana's outreach)

- a. Op-Ed- women locked down with their abusers during COVID, higher stress, people have been told to stay home so how do women know that it is safe to get services from DCRC?

- i. Op-ed needs to be written and sent to members then brought to the meeting for a vote

- b. Indy Weekly

- iii. We are a city entity that can be **advocates** for women who need to use DCRC, and the women who are working there.

- iv. Can DCRC serve the amount of people it should? For the size of Durham should we have a second center? Is there are group to partner with?

- v. Nana will **outreach** to current and former employees for concrete knowledge and experience

e. New seats:

Nida seat- Civil rights/ Social Justice

Mina seat- ward 3

Megan McCurley- ward 1

- XI. Staff person for assistance – the board is a community proposed board, there is no set department that it fits under. Amber Wade (Mayor’s staff assistant) may be able to staff. Jillian will check on this and let us know.
- XII. Adjournment
 - a. Next meeting 9/8/20 at 6pm via zoom