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Permanent Commission on the Status of Hartford Women

Monday, August 16, 2021

5:30pm-7:00pm

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- a. Commissioner Kula called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

2. Roll Call

- a. Present: Chairwoman Kula, Managing Secretary Abraham, Commissioner Pope, Commissioner Crowley, Commissioner Foster, City Staffer, Kimberly Taylor; Research Assistant, Jillian Davey
- b. Excused/Absent: Commissioners Folston, Johnson

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. July 19, 2021 meeting minutes
- b. July 19, 2021 policy committee minutes
- c. July 19, 2021 recruitment/planning committee minutes – n/a because they did not meet

4. Officer Reports

a. Chairwoman Kula

i. HPD/HFD gender equity

1. Chairwoman Kula reported on progress in pursuing information on HPD/HFD gender equity. Reaching the appropriate contact at HPD has been difficult. Discussion on whether to reach out to the Chiefs prior to reaching out to members of their staff or key union officials was held. Reaching out to Chiefs may result in an opportunity to connect with someone in charge of recruitment who may have directly impactful information. Chairwomen Kula reminded members we have already had these conversations with Chief Thody and a second outreach may be beneficial even if not necessary. She has not reached out to the new chief of Hartford's Fire Department. She said that the value of reaching out now to union presidents was to gain a different perspective and additional information. City Staff Member, Kimberly Taylor, offered to reach out to the union presidents to facilitate introduction. Commissioner Crowley asked for the name of the HFD union head. Ms. Taylor informed the commission he is Jason Diaz.

ii. New promotional materials for the Commission

1. Chairwoman Kula reported on the initiative to develop materials new and unique to the PCSHW. City Staffer Taylor found old materials we can build from. We will utilize the graphics and information to inform our social media efforts. She surveyed information on city commissions and about 80% have no presence digitally. A notable exception is the Arts Commission that even has its own website. Jillian was volunteered to create one and Erica offered to advise.

iii. September PCSHW Women's Economic Forum

1. September's PCSHW economic forum is Monday, September 27. Invitations have been sent to selected organizations to participate as panelists. To date, United Way has committed. There are a number of other invites out to city organizations to participate. Erica noted commissioners had multiple contacts with the organizations and perhaps in the next week can reach out to those they know to gain participation. The format was discussed as well.
2. All commissioners would ask questions. There is time to think of questions and discuss next meeting so there are no duplicate questions. Commissioners should develop 3 questions to ask panelists by 9/13 and submit to the Chairwoman. The Chairwoman suggested as a matter of presentation a uniform background be used so the visual would not be busy for participants. Soon invitations will go out via email and social media. Each Commissioner should submit 5 people to send invitations for the forum. Names should be sent to Chairwoman Kula this week.

b. Vice Chairwoman Folston

- i. No reports at this time.

c. Managing Secretary Abraham

- i. Managing Secretary Haben Abraham reported a need to schedule note takers. Commissioner Crowley volunteered for September, October is TBD and Commissioner Pope will do November.
- ii. Further, some members may have expiring terms. We are awaiting information from the city on which members may be impacted and the process for re-nominating or continuing in the role. However, Staffer Kim Taylor said generally members stay until they resign or are replaced. Each term is two years.

5. Committee and Special Reports

a. Policy Committee report, Commissioner Crowley

- i. The September forum is focused on economic impact of the COVID pandemic Hartford women. The next forum in October will be focused on women's health and safety. Commissioner Crowley shared the outline on tentative plan for the run of show for the September event. Various commissioners will introduce each of the four panels. Discussion on format and number of commissioners to ask questions followed, questions directed to each panel topic or saved for the end. Likely after. Commissioner Crowley offered to run tech.
- ii. Commissioner Crowley noted we may be the only commission doing this type of outreach and event. Commissioner Pope reminded the commission that we have been vocal from the outset that we should and do have a voice. Erica shared a draft of the invitation to the September event. Questions arose on how to receive RSVPs. FB site has no followers, maybe another avenue would be more effective. Also, perhaps we livestream to FB if others can't get Zoom. Questions on promotion were discussed. One avenue is the weekly email the city sends out with events.

b. Recruitment / Planning Committee report, Commissioner Pope

i. Recruitment

1. Commissioner Pope who reported they did not have a quorum at the last meeting. On the subject of outreach for new members, she asked Commissioner Foster to report on her outreach. Commissioner Foster reached out to the Hartford Republican Committee Chair who was very interested in reaching out to women Republicans who live in Hartford to participate. He especially thought of 3 potential candidates. Foster is awaiting reply from those who might be interested. Commissioner Erica Crowley will reach out to WFP.

2. Unfortunately, two Commissioners continue to await approval. The process for nomination and approval is way too long. Commissioner Pope voiced her frustration on the applications—frustrating, embarrassing and insulting to the committee and nominees to sit out there for months. Kim Taylor reviewed some history noting the barriers including lack of or changing personnel and promised resolution with the city staffer responsible for nominations.

- ii. Planning

1. Status of social media: Commissioner Jillian Davey asked for ideas for social media content, if you think of them please email content to her.

6. Special Orders

- a. none

7. Unfinished / Old Business

- a. Bylaw revisions – Chairwoman Kula. Bylaws were officially stamped by the Town Clerk in July.
- b. PCSHW elections report – Chairwoman Kula. Election report was received and stamped by the Town Clerk in July.

8. New Business

- a. none

9. Public Comments

- a. none

10. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Pope said maybe meetings should return to a one-hour format. Generally, the consensus was that if there is no invited speaker, an hour is sufficient. If there is an invited speaker or presentation, the meeting may require more time.
- b. Regarding the forums, Pope asked if members who live elsewhere but work in Hartford and address issues pertinent to women who are Hartford residents should be invited to the forum. Consensus is to invite them. Chairwoman Kula said anyone who can provide direct context relating to services and needs of Harford women are welcome to be invited to forum.

- c. As a reminder, the two upcoming virtual field hearings (forums) by this Commission are:
 - i. Monday September 27, 5-7pm, Hartford Women's Economic Forum
 - ii. Monday October 25, 5-7pm, Hartford Women's Health & Safety

11. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Foster