

Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Minutes- DRAFT

November 12, 2020

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT09>

I. Call to Order and Roll call

- A. First thing we discussed was congratulating Pattie on her Women of Impact Award!!
- B. Gabrielle called the meeting to order at 6:08PM. Marshall did the role call:
 - 1. Gabrielle Jackson
 - 2. Michelle Goncalves
 - 3. Dawn Distefano
 - 4. Lizzy Ortiz
 - 5. Pattie Hallberg
 - 6. Jennifer Metsch
 - 7. Guests-Audrey and Ebony from The Young Women's Initiative
- C. Gabrielle made a motion to approve meeting minutes from the October 2020 meeting. Pattie so moved and Dawn seconded. All approved.

II. Chair Report

- A. Gabrielle discussed that if we want to put anything into the Mass newsletter we need to give them the information ahead of time. She suggested putting it into the new business to discuss further. She discussed that she wants to put initiatives into it that we are all doing professionally.
- B. Mass commission supporting the ROE act and asks regional commissions to support and do email blast. Discussed Common Start coalition and Mass commission asking for our support.
- C. Mass commission asking if any commissioners want to meet with legislators. General consensus thinks it is a good idea but has concerns and questions about it. Need data to discuss and want to make sure we aren't mixing messages. Question who the legislators are and what they want us to talk about and how do we get data about Hampden County to discuss with them.
- D. Mass Commission having virtual public hearing on November 19, 2020 starting at 4pm.

- E. New England Women's Policy Initiative. Share the info with your network. The Commission asks if people from our region want to attend and they will try to help with ticket prices.

III. Vice Chair Report

- A. Pattie said tomorrow from 12-1:30 public health institute of western ma doing a program about sexual violence against girls and women in hampden county. She will send us an invite if we haven't got one yet.
- B. Encore performance of a play called We did it for you, A woman's journey through history. Wediditforyou.org

IV. Also discussed the New England Women's Policy Initiative and said it is a great event.

V. Public Speak Out- no members of the general public were present other than our guests.

VI. Featured Speaker Speak Out

- A. Michelle Goncalves welcomed our two guests Audrey and Ebony, graduates of The Young Women's Initiative. We invited them to discuss their experience in this program and any other issues they are facing as young women.
- B. Audrey-sophomore at UMass Boston. International relations major with minors in public policy and theatre. Joined YWI in the first cohort in 2017. They created a mini-grant program for nonprofits that benefit women and girls. They had to do a task force and do research to determine what grantees should be approved and had to research women leadership.
- C. Issues important to Audrey, women's reproductive rights and education reform. Believes English and History classes need to be reformed to create more diversity and inclusion. Environmental reform.
- D. Ebony-joined YWI last year. Researched it before she applied and was very surprised to find a program run by women for women. Met with speakers who all had different roles in society and different roles of power in society.
- E. Women's health is very important to Ebony and the lack of information in high school about it so this was her task force to research. Concerned about all the laws in place about women's bodies and the lack of laws governing a man's.
- F. Commission members then asked questions regarding the information provided and about what they are doing now. Learned about how they heard about the program and got involved and how we can get the word out for more young girls and women to apply. Lizzy asked for their email addresses to reach out to them in the future.

VII. Gabrielle made a motion to go to the executive session. Jennifer moved, Dawn seconded, all approved. Came out of the Executive session at 6:55pm.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Discussed coffee chats and dates in December
1. Suggested Hampshire commission may want to join in with us
- B. Discussed our December guest will be Lakisha Coppedge

- C. Dawn emailed Mass Appeal saying we are happy to do a segment with them, let us know. Gave Gabrielle's info.
- D. Suggests any person that invites a guess, that person perhaps creates a press release.

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IX. New Business

- A. Fall/winter mixer to try and set up to get people hanging out virtually. Asks if anyone has any ideas or wants to coordinate it. Dawn suggested preparing something for March for international women's day. Tara mentioned a company that does do trivia nights for fundraisers, can look into to see if it can be done just for fun. There is a cost to it. Dawn suggested maybe asking YWI if they want to prepare something. Email the Women's Fund for assistance to reach out to their network.

X. Adjournment

- A. Gabrielle called meeting to adjourn at 7:13PM