



**Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women Minutes  
Mayor's Large Conference Room  
June 23, 2014**

Present: Ruth Ann Hepler, Roshanda Jackson, Dr. Gail A. Patin, Oleta Riggs, Sabrina Simmons, Dr. Ann Williams,

Absent: Dr. Shirley Leckie Reed, Donna Kuldau, Patt Sher

Staff: Alaina Reaves

Guests: Phanessa Harris, Tangi Williams, Patricia Turrentine

The meeting was called to order by new chair Roshanda Jackson at 4:36pm. The May minutes were reviewed, and corrections addressed. Dr. Ann Williams motioned to approve the corrected minutes and Oleta Riggs seconded, the minutes we passed unanimously.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Roshanda Jackson and Alaina Reaves met with Representative Mia Jones to discuss the vision of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women for the 2014-15 Commission year. From that meeting Roshanda conveyed a renewed effort for the Commission on the Status of Women to engage more in the community. Roshanda suggested, and it was discussed during the executive board meetings, creating more committees: Budget, Volunteers\*, Communication, Community Outreach\* (formerly Celebration), Advocacy and Education\*, and Advisory. Each Committee Chair will be expected to attend executive board meetings. For the number of sitting Commissioners, the vision is to have 15-17 Commissioners. There are currently several citizens being vetted for positions on the Commission.

Roshanda explained her vision for the Commission for the 2014-15. One vision is to gain visibility through Jacksonville by attending already established events. Establish a presence and visibility in the community. There was a suggestion to divide Jacksonville in geographical areas. A list of events for the year will be provided for Commissioners. Commissioners will be asked to attend events to represent the commission, and reflect in the community the mission of Commission on the Status of Women.

**Board Assessment Questions to be discussed further at the Retreat**

1. *What are the talents and abilities that you as a Commissioner are bringing to the Commission?*
2. *Why did you join, or why do you want to join?*
3. *How can we implement question 1?*

\*New subcommittee on MCSW

Another vision is to fully utilize the talents of the sitting Commissioners. Roshanda championed that the retreat will be the forum to discuss the talents of the Commissioners and to hear from those who want to be Commissioners. Each Commissioner will make a list of their talents and note them in writing or by e-mail before the Retreat – the email should be sent to the staff liaison and cc Roshanda. (Note: Any e-mail from a Commissioner should be directed to the staff liaison and a Commissioner may be cc'd, but all e-mails should be directed to the staff liaison)

The Retreat will be a strategic planning session. Commissioners discussed what days and times are acceptable for the Retreat. There was a consensus for Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am – 12 am. Roshanda will reserve the meeting location for the Retreat; options included St. Vincent's meditation room and Dr. Williams's office.

Draft agenda included: Strategic planning, Bylaws (subcommittee developed at Retreat), 6 subcommittees and descriptions, board assessment (discussion of 3 questions listed above), calendar year activities, and vision, team-building activities (ice-breaker?), and discussion of geographical assignments. Sabrina will look into options for blazers. Food: coffee, water, ice, fruit and donuts. Cold lunch: sandwiches (suggestions: Subway

Ruth Ann Hepler was the spotlight speaker at the Professional Council (a council of the Jax Chamber) event in June Women's read the 6 goals of the Commission.

Guest Tangi Williams suggested getting fresh ideas from the community to expand the Commission's brand in the Jacksonville community. Guests Phanessa Harris and Patricia Turrentine participated in the dialogue where each Commissioner discussed what specific talents they bring to the Commission. Visitors completed comment cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm