

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 1, 2022 12:00 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent
Premadonna Braddick	Carmella Hill
Mary Quinn Cooper	Susan Bynum
Susan Crenshaw	Betsy Jackson
Ashleigh Frohrip	Dr. Nadia Khan Janjua
Deidra Kirtley	Amy Mariska
Janet Levit	Dr. Orlenthea McGowan
Jennifer Loren	Martha Zapata
Dr. Meg Myers Morgan	
Dr. Swarna Singhal	

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 12:01 pm
 - i. Chairwoman Myers Morgan introduces Commissioner Ashleigh Frohrip as the newest appointed member of the commission.
 - 1. Commissioner Frohrip introduces herself and provides a brief background. Commissioner Frohrip works at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, where she serves as an event coordinator.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Commissioner Myers Morgan requests a motion to approve the meeting minutes
 - i. Commissioner Kirtley makes a motion to approve
 - ii. Commissioner Levit seconds the motion
 - 1. All in unanimous favor

III. Guest Speaker: Annie Koppel Van Hanken, GKFF

- a. Annie Vank Hanken oversees GKFF’s early childhood education and common education initiatives.
 - i. The Commissioners ask for relevant and realistic policies or processes the commission can assist in making real headway with childcare capacity in Tulsa.
 - 1. Commissioner Cooper asks what Annie would consider the commission’s best plan of action to be effective in the women in the workplace initiative.
 - a. Annie responds that while there are no formal models, there are glimmers of an example of what the work could look like. She describes and praises the recent action in Washington D.C where they attempted to close the pay gap by identifying and eliminating barriers to access.
 - i. San Antonio voted to levy a public tax for 3 years old and 4years old from families above the poverty line. Families considered underneath the poverty line are exempt.

2. Commissioner Loren asks if there are any such portions of money set aside for early childhood here in Tulsa.
 - a. Annie informs her that there are not, but something like that would change so many people's lives.
 - i. She further explains that levy taxes do exist in Tulsa, but the money set aside is sent toward TCC, libraries, and schools in local neighborhoods. None of it is allocated for early childhood education. The process to change allocation for Tulsa property taxes would be something that has to be taken to a state election.
3. Commissioner Morgan Myers asks what Annie the commission would do to be considered successful within a year.
 - a. Annie responds that honoring and elevating the issue of the importance of early childhood education, and the lack of resources that exist to fund it would be extremely significant. She again stresses that anything or any type of allocation would be incredibly significant.
 - i. Commissioner Loren acknowledges that communities have done this and believes that meaningful dialogue around the topic would be good to explore.
 1. Commissioner Levit reminds the commissioners that property values in Tulsa have skyrocketed. The commission could work to propose a simple reallocation of existing funds, rather than assigning a new tax.
 - ii. Commissioner Loren asks if the commission can begin researching state question protocol.
 1. Commissioner Cooper suggests reaching out to Jack Blair, the city attorney to provide context on that.

IV. Chairwoman's Report

- a. Commissioner Myers Morgan asks Commissioner Frohrip to begin considering joining a committee that appeals to her.
- b. Commissioner Myers Morgan reports that the 2022 Pinnacle awards went incredibly well last night, and the compliments she received from attendees.
 - i. The commissioners briefly describe what went right, and what could be improved for future pinnacle awards.

V. Work Group Reports

- a. **Work Group #1 Education and Outreach (Community)**
 - i. No report
- b. **Work Group #2 City Comparisons (Businesses)**
 - i. No report
- c. **Work Group #3 Storytelling (Parents)**
 - i. No report

VI. Childcare Next Steps discussion

- a. No report

VII. Old Business



**THE MAYORS COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

- a. None**
- VIII. Announcements / Public Comments**
 - a. Dr. Singhal announces that she's recently published a memoir in memory of her husband.
- IX. Adjournment**
 - a. Commissioner Cooper calls for a motion to adjourn
 - b. Commissioner Kirtley motions to approve
 - c. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm