



Durham Workers Rights Commission Meeting 2.25.2025- Virtually via Zoom

Attendees: Chair Luster, Elise Ballan, Michael Lyon, Nina Martin, Kaiya Taylor, Bjorn Pedersen, Conlan Fenerty, Elizabeth Reinstein,

Agenda Items:

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No Public Comment

MINUTES/OLD BUSINESS

- A. Note: DWRC minutes for January was moved and approved at 6:05pm
- B. Chair Luster went over the mission statement of the commission in opening comments.
- C. New Commissioners Conlan and Elizabeth were asked to introduce and tell a bit about themselves. The Commission welcomed them with their own introductions.
- D. Chair Luster inquired if the members that are up for reappointment if they received their information and know the deadlines.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Dissolution of the Workers+ Survey Subcommittee
 - a. Elise stated she will be working independently on the Workers+ agenda and will reach if any support is needed.
- Follow up from visit from Council Member Rist/Liaison
 - a. No Updates
- Update on quarterly meeting with City Manager of Durham.
 - a. Dialogue with City Manager Ferguson this quarter was held on Monday February 24th. The discussion was positive
 - b. Next meeting will be held June 9th at 4pm via zoom. Any member of the commission is welcome to be on that zoom.
- Chair Luster stated he will be stepping down as chair.
 - a. He shared that anyone can be eligible.
 - b. Elise has expressed interest in the role.
 - c. Chair Luster stated this will be an interim basis; officers are selected in June.
 - d. A nomination to appoint Elise as interim Chair through June 2025. Congratulations Elise!!
- Chair Luster summarized what the commission has been working on over the past year.
 - a. He shared that brainstorming within the commission is taking place to see what's the next project/assignment to work on.
 - i. Flyers for the Labor Council; it will be shared with the commission.

- Commissioner Reinstein asked for the summary of the Workers+ project
 - a. Commissioner Ballan gave a summary of the objective of the survey.
- Chair Luster asked the new members what is their desired expectations coming from the commission
 - a. Commissioner Reinstein stated that she has been part of the DAE (teacher's union) for a couple of years.
- Chair Luster asked was anyone present for any of the rallies and would they like to share any feedback.
 - a. Commissioner Taylor shared that a good amount of people showed up from the community and other unions. There was good support from the unions and Amazon workers. They had a tent outside for ten days leading up to the election. They did not reach the number of votes needed to unionize. She stated that the workers and union workers were energized and ready to keep the movement going.
 - b. She stated they are still dealing with going through unfair labor practices and filings throughout the election and leading up to it.
 - c. The current ask of the community is for them to come out to support/volunteer; a tent is set up in the parking lot.
- Chair Luster stated to cement new project for the March meeting.
- Chair Luster stated Durham Worker's Assembly this Thursday February 27th at the People's solidarity hub/1809 Chapel Hill Road in Durham from 6pm-8pm.
 - a. If you could come out and participate that would be great.
- Commissioner Fenerty wanted an overview of Workers' Rights in Durham
 - a. Chair Luster stated he will forward the Bylaws. He also shared cliff notes of the mission of the commission.
- Those that are not in the GroupMe please reach out to Chair Luster.
- Commissioner Pedersen shared that internal air quality standards that is handled locally. This can be potentially beneficial to the workers of Durham.
- Chair Luster asked for the commission to brainstorm ideas and passions that they would like to bring to commission in March to vote on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-

- A. Chair Luster extended his appreciation to the members on the commission for their time.
- B. Chair Luster shared information on the stipend program with the new commissioners.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36pm

Next meeting: March 25th at 6pm via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted by: Ashlee Adams, Secretary to Workers' Right's Commission.