

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Thursday, March 11, 2021

7:00 P.M. --- On-line meeting via Zoom

| <u>Attending</u> | <u>Not Attending</u> | <u>Guests</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <p>Donna Rojas – President Tazeen Ahmad – 1st Vice President Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President Patti Maclay - Secretary Isabel Argoti Tonia Bui Arlinda Clark Nicole Drew Ijeoma Enendu Angela Whitehead Quigley Chai Shenoy Tricia Swanson Meredith Weisel</p> <p><u>Staff</u> Jodi Finkelstein Oyin Thompson Rose Allen</p> | | |

MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- President Rojas called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

President Rojas

- Motion by Commissioner Maclay was seconded and approved to amend the February meeting minutes with the following corrections:
Removal of one of Diana Rubin's names in attendance list.
Section V. e. Add quotes to "What advice would you give to Vice President Harris?"
Section VI. d. Add by Commissioner Weisel dates April 18 – 24 in line two.
Section VII. a.: change "R" to "r" in the word "received."
- Commissioner Clark motioned to not include Commissioner Maclay's statement with the minutes either as read during the meeting or as a pdf. Motion was seconded. President Rojas limited discussion to two minutes/speaker and summarized the statement. Executive Director Finkelstein clarified that the County attorney said that the statement shared at the meeting by Commissioner Maclay could be included as is or summarized, but the letter is not to be introduced.
- Vote was called on the motion to not include Commissioner Maclay's statement with the January minutes either as read during the meeting or as a pdf. Vote was by raised hand: Ayes (5) Nays (7): Abstain (1) Motion failed.
- An inquiry was raised that the minutes from January had not yet been approved. It was suggested the January minutes be voted upon electronically after today's meeting.
- Commissioner Maclay motioned to approve the original minutes as submitted by temporary Secretary Commissioner Bui.
- Commissioner Clark stated a separate closed meeting should be held to approve the January minutes.
- President Rojas announced a Special Called Meeting to be held to approve the January minutes.
- President Rojas tabled the approval of the minutes until a separate closed meeting is scheduled.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Rojas

- President Rojas and Commissioner Argoti attended the County Council's Proclamation of March as Women's History Month in Montgomery County via Zoom.
- Strategic Planning and Listening Tour (November and December, 2020). The Commission will provide a summary to the County Executive and County Council. It will also be used to formulate the CFW Strategic Plan. Commissioner Rubin recommended that the strategic plan cover two years and not the intended one year.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Executive Director Finkelstein

- New UMD intern is Holly Mancuso who will serve with the CFW from August, 2021 – May, 2022. Rose Allen’s tenure ends in June, 2021.
- Applications for summer interns are being reviewed.
- Executive Director Finkelstein shared that she will send an email to Commissioners about the Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) request for information on the impact of COVID-19 on women. Those interested in contributing should contact OLO directly. Commissioner Swanson suggested that the WLB’s prepared video be submitted to OLO.
- An individual who previously received CFW’s services placed the Commission in their estate planning. In the final stages of preparation, this will be a first for the CFW.

V. SPECIAL ELECTION: Commissioner Enendu & Executive Director Finkelstein

- Commissioner Enendu and Executive Director Finkelstein presented the slate for vacant positions on the Executive Committee.
 - First Vice President: Tazeen Ahmad
 - Secretary: Patti Maclay, MD
- Ballot results: Commissioner Ahmad was elected as First Vice President
Commissioner Maclay was elected as Secretary

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to provide updates)

1. Policy and Legislation: Rubin

2. Program Planning: Enendu

- Self Defense Course was previously suspended due to increased cost and the pandemic’s impact on the economic. The Committee’s plan is to offer the course by possible sponsorship. Executive Director Finkelstein will work with the committee to set the dates.
- Financial Health Course: 120 registered with 50 attending. The next course is Tuesday, March 16th with 74 registered
- Montgomery Women: CFW collaborated with Montgomery Women to create a program honoring 31 women leaders in Montgomery County throughout the month of March as part of Women’s History Month. Each were highlighted based on her accomplishments and/or her work in the community. The event will culminate on March 31st with a panel discussion featuring five of the women honored and attendee is encouraged to invite a younger woman as their guest.

- Potential new program offerings: A seminar geared to older women: “Life, Sex, and Menopause after 45” as well as a virtual “Career Fair” in collaboration with Montgomery Women.
3. Budget: Ahmad
 4. Research & Evaluation: (Chair Needed
 5. Emerging Leaders: Weisel
 6. **Public Relations:** **Commissioner Argoti**
 - Women’s History Month promotion with CFW and Montgomery Women is going extremely well.
 - Commissioner Argoti and Commissioner Maclay represented the CFW at the County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) town hall session held for public comment about climate change. They have asked CFW to co-host an event to assist in finding Climate Ambassadors who would work in Montgomery County communities documenting stories in audio and/or video format about the impact of climate change in their lives.
 - Commissioner Ahmad commended Commissioner Argoti’s work on the newly created CFW logo. She suggested using LinkedIn for the Women in History posts as well as for future programs and events thereby increasing CFW brand name.

7. **WLB:** **Rojas/Swanson**

- The WLB held a wrap-up meeting on March 4th and the Commission received positive reviews. Vendor produced a final video of the event. Plans for Presidential Networking Session in discussion. The WLB had 521 virtual attendees.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS (LIAISONS in BOLD to provide updates—no updates)

a. MLAW: Rubin

b. **HTPC/DVCC:** **Rojas/Drew**

- **HTPC:** Next meeting is March 17th. President Rojas will step down as liaison. Replacement nominated for CE/CC approval: Commissioner Patricia Maclay
- **DVCC:** The DVCC met on March 11th meeting. The focus was on two MD General Assembly bills dealing with domestic violence. Commissioner Drew asked the Commission to support the following bills:
 - **HB720/SB269** – modifying wiretap statute to allow evidence for crimes of violence

- **HB1122/SB776** - Expanding 11-304 tender years hearsay exception to include children under age 13 who witness domestic violence
- c. Maryland CF: Finkelstein
- d. **Choose Respect (Respecfest): Whitehead Quigley**
 - Event will be at Churchill High School, April 18 – 24, 2021. Human trafficking was added to the sessions per the CFW’s suggestions. The week-long event will cover topics from healthy relationships to yoga, inclusive of games, SSL hours. Planners will connect with the WLB co-chairs about using a virtual meeting format.
 - Girl Power Contest ends March 31, 2021. Commissioner Bui reported it’s promotion on the Montgomery County Public Schools online channels

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (Only those with updates to report out)

- a. CFW Scholarship: Maclay/Argoti
- b. Social Committee: Rojas
- c. **By-Laws: Drew**
 - ◆ Committee meeting date to be set by Doodle poll. Commissioners Ahmad and Maclay requested the Doodle poll method used display names and dates selected to make it easier for Commissioner to select a common meeting date.

X. UNFINISHED AND/OR NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Swanson discussed the proposed purchase of CFW face masks. Commissioner Drew asked if the cost is covered by the CFW budget. Executive Director Finkelstein said that if CFW’s budget was to cover the cost, they would have to be made by a County approved vendor. It was suggested that masks be given to the Women Making History honorees, CFW Staff, and interns.
- Commissioner Maclay recommended listing the DHH FIMR-CAT group’s Family Planning information on the CFW’s Resource List.
- Commissioner Clark suggested starting a resource list. Commissioner Argoti noted the CFW has started one and requested other Commissioners to further populate the list with suggested sources.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Whitehead Quigley shared that a Girl Scout was doing her Gold Award project on unconscious race, gender, and disability bias and was seeking subject matter experts. Commissioner Weisel will offer suggested names.
- Commissioner Shenoy shared that the UN Commission on the Status of Women is hosting virtual meetings covering COVID impacts. She also inquired if the CFW could address the issue of rising Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) hate crimes. Commissioner Bui shared that the MoCo Progressive Asian-American Network is focusing on this issue in Montgomery County.
- Executive Director Finkelstein noted that the Office of Community Partnerships has an Asian Liaison of the Asian American Advisory Group, and she plans to circulate the information about the Groups' meetings if Commissioners wanted to attend.
- Commissioner Ahmad provided an update on the Up2Us Foundation and requested additional support to promote the non-profit food insecurity resource.
- The National Association of Commission for Women is holding a hybrid conference. July 18 – 22 in Leesburg, VA. National Conference Center.
- Executive Director Finkelstein said that Linda Mahoney (deceased) will be honored on the Commission website highlighting the work she has done with CFW.

XI. ADJOURN

President Rojas adjourned the meeting at 9:09 pm.