

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Rockville Memorial Library Building
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330

Summary of Discussion

November 13, 2014; 7PM

Attending:

Linda Amendt
Debra Bright Harris, President
Daphnee Cherubin
Natalia Farrar
Beatrice Lauman
Guilia McPherson
Barbara Mintz
Farah Nageer-Kanthor
Safia Qadri
Heather Reichardt
Karmen Rouland
Katie Smith
Angela Whitehead Quigley

Absent:

Lorna Forde
Nick Martinez

Staff:

Sharon Morris

I. CALL TO ORDER..... President Bright Harris

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm and the agenda was adopted. October 9, 2014 minutes were amended by President Bright Harris to replace the name of Councilmember Leventhal with that of Councilmember Reimer (Item III,B). Commissioner Mintz made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commission Quadri. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.
- B. Thank you to Commissioner McPherson for providing a very nice meal.
- C. President Bright Harris welcomed Sharon Morris, our new support person responsible for administrative and event planning assistance. Ms. Morris is excited to work with the Commission and had significant conference planning experience. Each commissioner briefly introduced herself to Ms. Morris.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Commisisoner Reichardt provided a summary of the meeting held by the Maryland Commission for Women in Annapolis. The summary is attached to the minutes as Addendum A.
- B. President Bright Harris met with County Executive Leggett's staff to discuss the progress of the change in the Executive Director position from a merit position to an appointed position. The bill has not yet come out of the Government Operations committee to the full council. Several councilmembers may be approached by Commissioners Amendt and Quadri to gauge their support.
- C. President Bright Harris encouraged the Commissioners to think of possible candidates for the Executive Director position, once it has been finalized. President Bright Harris will look for a job description so all can understand the responsibilities involved.

- D. County Executive Leggett will attend the December 11 meeting at exactly 7:00pm. Our business meeting and meal, provided by host President Bright Harris, will commence after our discussion with Mr. Leggett. All Commissioners must be in attendance prior to 7pm on December 11.
- E. Unfortunately, Commissioner Nick Martinez has resigned from the Commission as of the November meeting. All agreed he and his contributions will be sorely missed

III. STAFF REPORT..... Morris

- A. All Commissioners are expected to have taken the county Ethics Training. However, the exact date of the session has yet to be determined. Commissioners will be notified as soon as the information is available.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy and Legislation – Commissioner Rouland is waiting for specific direction from the County Executive’s office regarding how the Commission can help with a pay equity bill. The Human Trafficking Task Force will be requesting a bill that all types of trafficking be reclassified as felonies. Additional priorities for the committee will be set as the Assembly sessions gets closer to its start date.
- B. CFW Scholarship..... **Lauman**
 - a. Commissioner Lauman discussed the various options for the CFW STEM scholarship at Montgomery College. One option is to commit to a \$25,000 endowed fund that would be managed by the College. Another option is to collaborate with another organization who can assist in determining the candidate(s) for scholarship in the next one or two semesters. A possible organization would be the Montgomery County Delta Sigma Theta Foundation. Final option would be for the Commission to manage the entire process. Questions and other unknowns that need to be researched:
 - i. Does the Commission need to set up a 501(c)3 organization to manage the funds?
 - ii. Are there legal questions that need to be looked into from county government side?
 - iii. Can the scholarship committee manage the process temporarily?
 - iv. How can the Commission access the funds in order to either grant the scholarship or donate to the organization that will grant the scholarship?
 - b. There is general agreement with the Commissioners to fund a scholarship in the near term with the assistance of an outside organization but to work toward establishing the \$25,000 endowed fund with the Montgomery College Foundation.
- C. WLB – Commissioner Smith reported that the prior week’s Briefing meeting was very productive and that progress has been made on crafting the breakout sessions, shortlisting a keynote speaker (Brigid Schulte or Ann Lewis) and finalizing major sponsors (Kaiser, AARP and Pepco). The next steps are to reach out to potential speakers with invitation letters. Sharon Morris to provide those drafts to the committee.
- D. WLB - Teen Track – Commissioners Whitehead-Quigley and McPherson reported that their committee is making progress on the program and speakers for the Teen Track sessions. It was determined that the Commission will pay the licensing fee to show the movie, Raising Miss President. They may have Jessica Browns from Running Start as a keynote speaker

V. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. MLAW – Commissioner Cherubin reported that the MLAW Conference agenda was set. Six Commissioners are attending the conference on Nov 15.
- B. Human Trafficking Task Force – Commissioner Mintz reported that the next meeting of the Task Force in November 20 at 12pm in the library. They are recommending changes in business licensing to provide more scrutiny to massage-parlor-type enterprises, state legislation

(mentioned above), victim services and outreach. Commissioner Mintz will be making a presentation to OASIS (a county organization committed to assisting citizens over 55 years old). She will also present to an AAUW meeting. Many people attend the meetings and want to help.

- C. Teen Dating & Violence Taskforce – Commissioner Quadri attended the first planning meeting for the March 8, 2015 conference in Germantown. The biggest challenge is that due to the free registration, many sign up but do not attend. The hashtag for this year’s conference is #RespectYourSelfie!
 - a. Domestic Violence Task Force – Commissioner Mintz attended this meeting which is tied to the Teen Dating and Violence conference.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....President Bright Harris
N/A

VII. NEW BUSINESS.....

- A. Scarves/tie options – there endless scarf options, but not in the style that is preferred. Commissioner Amendt will continue to research square, silk scarves in coral.
- B. Through email between now and December, the Commissioners will develop potential questions for County Executive Leggett for his attendance at the December 11 meeting. Possible questions include
 - a. How can we support you with Pay Equity bill – no info yet?
 - b. How can we support your concerns with aging women and immigrant women in the county?
- C. The Commissioners decided that we do not have enough time to prepare a nomination tis year for the Maryland Womens Hall of Fame.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

- A. Commissioner Smith recommended that the Commission induct the following women into the Montgomery County Womens History Archives:
 - a. Judy Vaughan Prather
 - b. Susan Lee, first Asian American senator
 - c. Commission vote was unanimous to induct these two women at the Women’s Legislative Briefing in January.
- B. Commissioner McPherson will be attending the Professional Women in Advocacy conference and will report at the next meeting.
- C. Commisioner Amendt reported that 200 women demonstrated at the FDA about the fact there are 43 viagra-like drugs approved for men in the US, but no similar drugs approved for women due to minor side-affects that are less harmful than the side-effects for the mens’ drugs.

X. ADJOURNMENT..... President Bright Harris
President Bright Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:55PM.