**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, December 10, 2020

7:00 P.M. ---On-line meeting via Zoom

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attending** | **Not Attending** | **Guests** |
| Nicole Drew - President  Donna Rojas - 1st Vice President  Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President  Tiffany Boiman - Recording Secretary  Tazeen Ahmad  Isabel Argoti  Mona-Lee Belizaire  Tonia Bui  Arlinda Clark  Ijeoma Enendu  Patti Maclay  Angela Whitehead Quigley  Diana Rubin  Chai Shenoy  Tricia Swanson  Meredith Weisel  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein |  | Tondalayo Royster  Susan Smith |

**MINUTES**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  (Guests should introduce themselves)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA Commissioner Drew**

* Commissioner Bui did not attend last month’s meeting, which needs to be amended in the November minutes. Commissioner Ahmad moved to approve; Commissioner Rubin seconded. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**III.        EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT Commissioner Drew**

1. Councilmember Jawando’s Town Hall: Squeezed: Life for Women and Caregivers

* This event was a session intended to highlight the issues facing women and caregivers during the pandemic. President Drew participated.

1. CFW Advisory Committee **Commissioners** **Clark/Maclay**

* Commissioners Maclay and Clark will chair the new committee and met last week to talk about the particulars. They had wanted to draw invitees from previous applicants, but they don’t have access to those records, so they’ll have to recruit another way. It will be a two-year term.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT Executive Director Finkelstein**

1. Program Manager begins December 22: Executive Director Finkelstein is excited to welcome her.

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)**

1. **Policy and Legislation**  **Commissioners** **Rubin/Boiman**

* The policy briefing took place last night to prepare for next week’s lobby day, and commissioners from Prince George’s and Howard counties also joined.
* Commissioner Rubin encouraged as many commissioners as possible to attend, even if they can’t attend the whole time.
* CFW’s priority bills relate to paid leave, marriage as a defense for sexual assault, protections for essential workers, and the establishment of health equity resource communities. PALS will circulate the bill summaries and lobby day agenda to the full Commission.

b. **Program Planning** **Commissioner Enendu**

* The Career series kicked off this week, and the next one is December 15th for the Divorce series. They are considering using Zoom for the sessions and may be recording them.

c. Budget **(Chair needed)**

      d. Research and Evaluation **(Chair needed)**

e. Emerging Leaders **Commissioners Belizaire/Weisel**

f. Public Relations **Commissioner** **Argoti**

g. **WLB**  **Commissioners Rojas/Swanson**

* The timeframe for the WLB is 12:30 to 4:30 pm on Sunday, January 31st.
* The President’s Reception may take place the day before. The opening plenary will take place at 1:00 pm, and the final session will close at 4:30 pm.
* The last session will center on shattering the glass ceiling and may feature pre-recorded speakers.
* The MLAW conference provided some good ideas for structure and format.
* Commissioners Ahmad and Maclay asked about why the President’s Reception is being held on a different day, and Commissioner Weisel corroborated that she thought it should be held on the same day. Per Commissioner Swanson, two sessions could be a vendor contracting issue, since the contract was for one session only.
* President Drew wanted to move the reception to a different day to give senior leadership more time to talk and engage, and had received feedback from participants to support the change. She felt that past precedent allowed considerable discretion by the President to conduct it according to her vision.
* Per Executive Director Finkelstein, it was her understanding that the President did typically work with the rest of the Commission on the details for the reception. The decision to move the location of the reception a few years ago was a joint one.
* Commissioner Weisel thought it would be helpful to be able to consult written past precedent and standard operating procedure with regard to the WLB, so that there can be uniformity of practice and widespread understanding of the planning parameters.
* Per Executive Director Finkelstein, there will be a separate leadership meeting to discuss the particulars of the President’s Reception.
* Commissioner Belizaire inquired about whether any communications have gone out about the WLB. Per Commissioner Rojas, everything has been uploaded into Eventbrite so that people can register.

**VI.       LIAISON REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)**

1. **MLAW**                                           **Commissioner** **Rubin**

* Commissioner Rubin clarified that individual commissioners would need to rank order all of the MLAW bills if they want to participate in that process, by next week and agreed to them.
* MLAW usually selects eight bills advocate for their advocacy agenda.

1. HTPC/DV                                                                                **Commissioners** **Rojas/Drew**
2. Maryland Commission for Women                                           **Executive Director** **Finkelstein**
3. Choose Respect (Respectfest)                                              **Commissioner** **Whitehead Quigley**
4. Community Health Needs Assessment Adv. Committee **Commissioner Maclay**

**VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)**

1. CFW Scholarship                                                                      **Commissioners** **Maclay/Argoti**
2. Social Committee                                                                     **Commissioner** **Rojas**
3. By-Laws **Commissioner** **Drew**

**VIII. Old Business**

a. Strategic Planning and Listening Tour

**IX. New Business/Announcements**

* Executive Director Finkelstein sent out County Executive orders regarding policy changes regarding the pandemic.

**X. Adjourn**

Upcoming Events: Lobby Day: December 16, 2020