**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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  Ijeoma Enendu  Patti Maclay  Angela Whitehead Quigley  Tricia Swanson  Meredith Weisel  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein  Lucy Font | Giulia McPherson  Adrienne Prentice | Corey Orlosky, Budget Analyst, Community Engagement Cluster  Judy Stiles, Public Information Officer for the CFW  Simone Ebongo Bayehe a journalism student ay the University of Maryland |

**I.         WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

* The meeting called to order at 7:00 pm
* The commissioners introduced themselves to their guests
* Items for amending in the minutes: Item 3b., “budget office may come to present”:put “we” in front of the “will”
* President Drew made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was moved by Commissioner Swanson; the minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER**

* Corey Orlosky, Community Engagement Cluster Budget Analyst
* Judy Stiles, Public Information Officer for the CFW
* Simone, journalism student at university of Maryland

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA Commissioner Drew**

* Executive Director Finkelstein asked to add items under her report for Women’s History Month
* Commissioner Ahmad moved to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Rubin seconded
* Mr. Orlosky delivered a presentation on outcomes-based budgeting, explaining that with outcomes-based budgeting, and asks more questions about use of funding.
  + This approach looks at each function to see if it’s meeting its objectives
  + The County Executive established seven priority outcomes; government should be targeting those outcomes
  + How do functions relate to priority outcomes?
  + CFW falls into “thriving youth and families” priority outcome.
  + Several years ago, we were aggregated with other offices, which means administrative support and other functions are aggregated with other offices, so it can be hard to discern what our line item funding actually is.
  + All operating expenses are held separately from personnel costs for the Commission.
  + Commissioner Drew asked a question about what happens to money for a program that are not used in a given year. Per Mr Orlosky, there is no “use it or lose it” approach. Per Commissioner Drew, how is that flexibility managed? Per Commissioner Ahmad, can donations be deductible in the same way that they would be for a 501(c)(3)? Mr. Orlosky suggested that was a finance question.
  + Executive Director Finkelstein asked Mr. Orlosky to explain the budget cycle: agencies submit to OMB in October/November timeframe; budget by statute has to go to county council on March 15th; has 2 months to work it through; Council generally passes it by third week of May.

**IV.        EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT Commissioner Drew**

* No report

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

* Re-entry program
  + The Executive Director thanked Commissioner Rojas for helping with re-entry project interviews and hope to be close to hiring shortly;
* Miscellaneous
  + Intern Claire will be on leave doing her school play until April.
  + Also, March is Women’s History Month. would like to do proclamation for WHM: March 3rd at 9:30 am @ County Council Building; would like Commissioners to attend
  + Happy Galentine’s Day!

**VI.        COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

* Lobby Day will take place on Wednesday, February 19th; hoping for as much Commission attendance as possible;
* Commissioner Rubin thanked Ms. Font for all her work, reminded COmmissioners about the Monday night webinar at 8:00 pm;
* Commissioners Boiman and Ahmad testified on priority bills, salary history and vacatur (?), respectively;
* A CROWN Act state bill also being introduced; Commissioner Drew asked to provide testimony for the state bill hearing.
* Commissioner Rubin moved a motion that we support the state-level CROWN bill; Commissioner Ahmad Tazeen seconded and it was unanimously approved; the motion carried.
* CFW received information about strengthening the sexual harassment prvisions at the county level and expect developments on this soon.
* Commissioner Swanson is testifying for Chamber the afternoon of Lobby Day on a bill to exempt certain small businesses from the $300 filing fee. The bill is HB204, Disadvantaged Businesses.

b. Program Planning **Commissioner Enendu**

* Commissioner Finkelstein was able to secure upcounty regional career series: June 9, 16, 23rd; June 30 and July 7th
* Self-defense classes will be upcoming
* JCADA wants to partner with the commission to draft wills for members of the community who need it; working out details to identify need; want to host clinic on a Saturday instead of a weekday, date TBD.

c. Budget **Commissioner** **McPherson**

* A budget request was filed to cover for the expenses for Lobby Day, in the amount of $280, for sign printing, breakfast and room rental and was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee. Commissioner Drew moved that we approve the budget request; Commissioner Rubin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

      d.  Research and Evaluation **Commissioner** **Prentice**

* Per Commissioner Bui, the committee talked about Commissioners’ priority votes. Top votes were for disconnected youth; and the committee did talk about how to address this issue.
* They recommend asking the County Executive for a task force to study and address disconnected youth.
* There was also interest in resources related to DV, trafficking, women in leadership. One approach might be to create a clearinghouse on the site around the named priority topics as a place to start. Commissioner Argoti’s message about web content dovetails with this effort.
* Commissioner Drew reiterated that it’s important for committees to send in reports so that we know what committees want to talk about in Commission meetings.
* The committee isn’t prepared to make a recommendation at this meeting about the way forward in terms of executing a plan
* Commissioner Boiman should do some research on what the county may already be doing on disconnected youth.
* Commissioner Bui moved a motion to draft a joint exploratory letter to the County Executive and County Council to form/support a task force on disconnected youth; Commissioner Maclay seconded.
* “Opportunity youth” is the appropriate term to use when referring to disconnected youth.
* Commissioners liked the idea of a portal for viewing programs after the fact.

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

* Per Commissioner Belizaire, about 30 youth were present at the Emerging Leaders session at the WLB.
* Lucy looked at the evaluations--most found out about the Emerging Leaders session from other organizations outside of school. A majority of participants were African American, and many wanted to volunteer. Participants reported learning new information about the voting process and requirements and also learned a lot about leadership.
* Commissioner Weisel had a question about the girl power contest and agreed to address it with the Executive Director separately.

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

* Commissioner Argoti asked Commissioners to review social and online platforms--about 7 or 8--including Facebook, next door, the website and others--and be ready to make recommendations. Are there too many platforms to maintain? There are services and platforms to streamline. Deadline for review is February 20th.
* She noted that we’re at the maximum tabs on the site right now.
* Commissioner Rojas asked how we manage content, e.g., the article about women proposing to men? How do we determine what’s going up on social media websites?
* Commissioner Ahmad recommended being more systematic in posting and disseminating through personal accounts. According to Executive Director Finkelstein, CFW uses county standards for content.
* Commissioner Drew would like to use social media to drive traffic on issues others will be interested in. Are we doing cross-posting across platforms for CFW programs, e.g. Nancy Navarro recognition? Could we post this on Facebook now or soon during Women’s History Month? The Executive Director explained that CFW did a media advisory at the time and will be doing some Black History Month content, as well.
* Commissioner Rubin asked Ms. about her capacity to assist us; probably mostly a separate discussion.
* Ms. Stiles explained that she covers several other offices; is also the editor of Paperless Airplane; and is trying to get more social media capture. The county also has a cable tv program, County Report This Week and press provide another opportunity to amplify work.

g. WLB **Rojas/Ahmad**

* Commissioner Rojas touted another very successful WLB and extended thanks to everyone who assisted.
* The total number of participants was around 600; surveys will be analyzed soon.
* There are still some outstanding invoices, so those financial details will be available soon.
* Commissioner Rojas asked for feedback from Commissioners: Commissioner Argoti thought it was really amazing, was surprised at the size of the event.
* Commissioner Maclay recommended using a large sign to tell media where to sign in.
* It was also recommended that CFW should have our own photographer and rely too much on the county photographer who doesn’t always know what our priority photos would be. We can capitalize on the County Executive’s photographer’s pictures as long as he’s there.
* Commissioner Boiman found it so energizing to be with other women’s issues advocates.
* Commissioner Swanson recommended trying to get another volunteer photographer and also use just one hashtag; might want to use more video messages.
* Commissioner Drew noted that the President’s Reception was not as well attended as in years past.

**VII.       LIAISON REPORTS**

1. MLAW                                                                                      **Commissioner** **McPherson**

* No report

1. HTPC/DV:                                                                                **Commissioner** **Rojas/Drew**

* Per Commissioner Rojas, there was no meeting this month.
* On Jan. 21st, they issued a joint proclamation for Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
* The bodyworks bill is still in development. The committee reviewed the bill and requested changes to the bill language and amendments be added.
* Per Executive Director Finkelstein, there will be a bill work session open to the public on February 25th at 2:00 pm that day.
* The vacatur bill passed out of the Committees and passed the House and Senate and might need to be conferenced.
* Commissioner Drew noted that the DVCC meeting is next month.

1. Maryland Commission for Women                                           **Executive Director Finkelstein**

* Women’s Hall of Fame is happening on March 19th; dates at bottom of the agenda; our Emerging Leaders speaker is being honored

1. Choose Respect (Respectfest)                                              **Commissioner Whitehead Quigley**

* Per Commissioner Whitehead Quigley, we can have two tables, but would need sufficient staffing for both.
* CFW has been assigned the issue of talking to parents about domestic violence. The committee needs a head count during tonight’s meeting.
* The date is Sunday, March 29th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Wheaton Community Center. Youth volunteers will get SSL hours. Not a place to hand out our CFW literature. 6/7 people volunteered. A different format than years past. Seems most realistic to do one table.
* Registration is open to share with networks. Student Advisory Board made video to promote video public service announcement; deadline is February 28th

**VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. CFW Scholarship                                                                      **Commissioners** **Maclay/Argoti**

* Per Commissioner Drew, CFW will host the student at a future meeting.

1. Social Committee:                                                                     **Commissioner Rojas**

* Per Commissioner Rojas, Top Golf a possible outing.

1. S2020  **Commissioner** **Bui/Maclay**

* Per Commissioner Maclay,the event will take placeAugust 19th at the Silver Spring Civic Center. There will be a proclamation and are currently seeking partners and sponsors. The next meeting is March 10th.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND/OR NEW BUSINESS**

a. Friends of the Commission for Women **Commissioner Ahmad**

* Commissioner Ahmad,spoke to Judith Vaughan-Prather, Director of the Maryland Commission for Women, who recommended we not pursue establishing a non-profit because of procedural difficulties it creates. Might still give contributors the same tax deduction benefits without the non-profit status

b. By-Laws Committee **Commissioner** **Drew**

* The Committee will be meeting soon.

c. CJCC **Commissioner** **Ahmad**

Councilmember Jawando still working to get us a seat.

d. Commissioner Rojas serves on the Women Moving Forward steering committee and suggested tapping

Women’s Commissions to contribute to supporting conference costs for the event. The conference takes

place on April 11th.

**X. ADJOURN**

* Executive Director Finkelstein shared the news that Carmen Kaarid is now a commissioner at Frederick County Commission for Women and was recently hired to work in Councilmember Katz’s office.
* Commissioner Ahmad moved a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Maclay seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Upcoming Events:

* Lobby Day: February 19, 2020, Annapolis
* Girl Power Contest Month of March
* MD Women’s Hall of Fame: March 19, 2020, Annapolis
* RespectFest: March 29, 2020, Wheaton Community Recreation Center