**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, May 14, 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  Ijeoma Enendu  Patti Maclay  Giulia McPherson  Adrienne Prentice  Angela Whitehead Quigley  Diana Rubin  Tricia Swanson  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein | Meredith Weisel |  |

**MINUTES**

**I.         WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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

* The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm
* The Recording Secretary will amend the previous minutes in Section VI to note that Commissioners Argoti, Drew, Maclay and Executive Director Finkelstein all attended meeting with Judy Stiles
* Commissioner Rubin made a motion to adopt agenda and minutes, as amended; Commissioner Swanson seconded.
* June 15th was noted as the deadline for submitting budget reimbursements.

**III.        EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT Commissioner Drew**

a. Commissioner Check-In: President Drew inquired about how everyone was doing and holding up.

b. Commissioners in the Community: President Drew participated in a discussion hosted by the National

Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) that included representatives from the Massachusetts and Hawaii commissions; the discussion centered around what commissions are doing to address Covid-related issues.

c. Congressman John Sarbanes: staff from Rep. Sarbanes office have reached out about a potential meeting;

commissioners should offer potential topics

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

a. Fall Intern: CFW has a hired a University of MAryland, School of Social Work student as its fall intern;

the incumbent is a mid-career student and will begin in the fall.

b. Census completion outreach: Montgomery County government us conducting outreach to encourage

residents to complete their Census submission. Interested commissioners should submit photos with the hashtag #MontgomeryCountyCensus for posting on social media

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS (Not all committees will report—only those with updates)**

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

* The salary history, vacatur and strangulation bills passed the state legislature, and the CROWN  Act passed at the county level.
* Commissioner Prentice felt the issue of paid leave legislation should be raised with Rep. Sarbanes

b. Program Planning **Commissioner Enendu**

* Per Commissioner Enendu, the divorce series has gone online using Zoom; and the financial series will also go virtual.
* The committee also had a discussion with Christopher Page, Executive Director, Montgomery County Conflict Resolution Center to understand the kinds of topics they cover and if there might be partnership opportunities there
* Executive Director Finkelstein has updated the forms for groups wanting to partner with CFW.

c. Budget **Commissioner McPherson**

* The county budget passed, per Commissioner McPherson. The Budget Committee is working with the county to get updates on restricted expenses from the WLB.
* Commissioner Rojas asked for clarification about whether the county keeps the tally, and not CFW? According to Executive Director Finkeltstein, other line items outside WLB are tracked by the county budget office.
* President Drew recommended CFW keep its own internal accounting of expenditures and not rely entirely on the county.

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

* No report

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

* No report per Commissioner Belizaire

f. Public Relations  **Commissioner Argoti**

* Commissioner Argoti located previously proposed logos, and these were shared via screen sharing; President Drew agreed to conduct a poll to gather preferences.
* Commissioner Rubin expressed a preference to set aside the existing proposed logos, and a number of other Commissioners agreed.
* Commissioner Swanson suggested CFW solicit designers in the county to submit ideas and make it a contest to gather some more creative ideas.
* Commissioner Drew suggested CFW might re-purpose funds for programming gift cards for this contest instead.
* Commissioner Argoti recommended the group consider the timeline if a contest is the desired route, and President Drew suggested CFW could debut the contest at the suffrage event.
* Commissioner Argoti also shared that the Committee is looking to organize photos using google photos, creating a central repository that everyone can access.
* The Committee is hoping to do some voter outreach as part of the suffrage event.

g. WLB **Commissioners** **Rojas/Ahmad**

* Commissioner Rojas explained that the committee is wrapping up the budget and doing final close out.
* Commissioner Ahmad shared that CareFirst gave an additional $1000 for the WLB, and Executive Director Finkelstein agreed to send the will form to their representative.
* Commissioner Rubin reminded the group about the timeline for writing the annual report, and inquired about what the deadline would be. Executive Director Finkelstein will follow up with firm dates for submission.
* President Drew reminded the group that it’s a good time to start planning for next year and that September is too late. She also suggested starting to think about the prospect of a virtual WLB and doing donor outreach early.
* Per Commissioner Swanson, the Chamber of Commerce is moving to virtual events and would be happy to have Executive Director Finkelstein and another Commissioner to join and see how thee platform works, but they haven’t finalized which platform yet.
* Commissioner Maclay recommended the Hopin platform for larger events.
* President Drew commended Ahmad for her work in securing sponsorship money for WLB.

**7:50** **VI.       LIAISON REPORTS** **(Not all liaisons will report out—only those with updates)**

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

* Commissioner McPherson explained that MLAW is gearing up for next Board slate; that she is transitioning off the MLAW Board, and that Commissioner Rubin will be applying in McPherson’s place.
* Commissioner McPherson also reported that MLAW has identified that date and location for the next legislative briefing.

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

* Per President Drew, the DVCC Family Violence and Prevention campaign is ongoing; and encouraged CFW to use social media to disseminate. The campaign also focused on elder and child abuse, and not just victims, but also bystanders.
* The Family Justice Center is still fully operational; cases have not declined.
* There’s a safe email being used for inquiries, concerns and information: [safe@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:safe@montgomerycountymd.gov), and there are Ride On bus ads also out in the community. Montgomery County liquor stores and other businesses are highlighting the campaign on receipts, etc.
* Per Commissioner Rojas, the next trafficking meeting will take place on May 20th.

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

* Maryland CFW is moving the August suffrage event from live to virtual.

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

* Video entries were submitted and winners selected from among 368 entries; commissioners can watch videos on the link Commissioner Whitehead Quigley sent.

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

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

* Per Commissioner Maclay, she will see if students can join a virtual Commission meeting

1. Social Committee:                                                                     **Commissioner** **Rojas**

* The committee will revisit the possibility of doing a virtual event with the elimination of Top Golf as a prospect.

1. S2020  **Commissioners Bui/Maclay**

* Commissioner Maclay explained that the committee meeting took place the preceding Tuesday, and the main item on the docket was whether to go virtual for the August 19th event, which was strongly favored.
* Commissioner Maclay also mentioned the development of a mini-campaign to remind residents to vote on June 2.

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

* By-laws: The committee had a meeting, but is looking to suspend rules governing the designated timeline for amending the by-laws. Commissioner Rojas would like to move a motion to suspend the timeframe rules for the by-laws. Commissioners should put forward ideas for the ballot to President Drew.
* The by-laws can only be amended at June and November meetings, with notice at the prior meeting, a deadline that has passed.
* President Drew moved a motion to suspend the provision in Article XI (Amendments) of our bylaws that reads that the “Bylaws may be amended at the November and June meetings, and that notice to all members is given no later than the May or October meetings.” Moved to suspend this provision only one time. Passed by unanimous raise of hands.
* Community volunteering proposal: Commissioner Rojas, proposed putting together an effort to serve the community in response to Covid, something along the lines of a small food drive or other collective effort, to include Commissioner Ahmad’s non-profit.
  + Other volunteering ideas included having individuals in the community meet Commissioners online or an IG live. President Drew also suggested joining Councilmember Jawando’s storytime, and Commissioner Swanson suggested Commissioners could interview each other.
  + Per Commissioner Ahmad, her non-profit organization is doing food assistance in the county, now delivering to people’s homes, on the order of about 150 bags a week. She suggested doing neighborhood food drives to collect needed items and also the possibility of doing it as a CFW collective effort--looking for driving and drop off volunteers, as well. She explained that the group also has the need for translators and that Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, and Germantown are delivery areas.
  + Commissioner Ahmad agreed to send a list of needs, and Executive Director Finkelstein will set up a sign up genius. Per Commissioner Whitehead Quigley, could tie to SOW report findings related to poverty. Per Commissioner Belizaire, suggested partnering with WLB sponsor since we normally only engage around the WLB.
  + Commissioner Drew asked what a food drive would look like in this moment. Commissioner Ahmad explained that commissioners can coordinate a central drop off and then take collective contributions to Commissioner Ahmad. The group is looking to add fresh fruits and vegetables, but non-perishables are best. Commissioners can take photos and send to Commissioner Argoti and Commissioner Ahmad.
  + Per Commissioner Argoti, her organization’s graduating seniors won’t get a graduation, so her organization is dropping off graduation gifts if any Commissioners want to assist.
  + Commissioner Rojas asked which of the options should the Commission commit to doing? Commissioner Drew suggested CFW try and contribute to all 3: reading, food drive, graduation gifts.
  + Commissioner Enendu suggested commissioners should select what works for them. Each coordinating commissioner can send her own respective sign up. Commissioner Drew will reach out to Councilmember Jawando’s office.
* Commissioner Enendu proposed the idea of purchasing t-shirts for Commissioners to wear at events. suggested we have a shared t-shirt, perhaps a polo shirt. Per Executive Director Finkelstein, the cost for 40 would be $993 total, plus embroidery charges. This might come out of the operational side, which would be an allowable use of funds and a simple design including the Montgomery County seal was recommended by the Executive Director as the best way to go.
* Ms. Christine Vallerian spearheading an Equality 2020 event statewide on August 22, 2020, and Commissioner Bui suggested we might want to sponsor and that it might be an opportunity for us to elevate our profile with new stakeholders and in other parts of the state.
* Per Commissioner Whitehead Quigley, working on a virtual speech competition as part of Women’s Bar Association for school-age children. $100 prize for each division
* Per Rojas, be careful and safe, practice physical distancing and feel free to reach out if you want to talk.

**IX. ADJOURN**

* The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Upcoming Events:

* Girl Power Contest June 25 deadline