**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

**General Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2022 / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

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***“It’s only after you stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.”***

***Roy T. Bennett***

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Commission Attendees  
Donna Rojas (Chair)

Betty Romero (2nd Vice Chair)  
Isabel Argoti Jodi Danis LaDonna King Janet LaValle

Helen Meister Kimberly Mouzon Liz Richards Tondalayo Royster Leah Wade

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**I.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR ROJAS**

* Commissioners introduced themselves and new commissioners were welcomed by Chair Rojas

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR ROJAS**

* Approval of meeting agenda  
  Commissioner Tondalayo Royster moved for approval

Commissioner Betty Romero second the motion  
Motion approved and agenda approved

* Approval of August 11, 2022 minutes  
  Commissioner Betty Romero moved for approval

Commissioner Janet LaVelle second the motion   
Motion approved and August 11, 2022 minutes approved

* Approval of September 8, 2022 minutes  
  Commissioner Janet LaVelle moved for approval

Commissioner Kimberly Mouzon second the motion  
Motion approved and September 8, 2022 minutes approved

* Approval of October 13, 2022 minutes  
  Commissioner Kimberly Mouzon moved for approval

Commissioner Betty Romero second the motion  
Motion approved and October 13, 2022 minutes approved

**III.       EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT / CHAIR ROJAS**

* National Association for the Advancement of Colored People   
  (NAACP) Conference (Montgomery County Branch)
* Commissioner Donna Rojas attended the conference
* Theme: Status of Black Women in Montgomery County
* CFW sponsored this year
* CFW Status of Women report statistics were referenced at the conference
* Copy of conference presentation will be emailed to Commissioners
* Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)
* CFW sponsored this year
* Annual meeting included keynote speaker and presentation of awards to individuals in honor of domestic violence awareness month which is in October
* Video of event will be sent to Commissioners via email
* The Maryland Commission for Women Hall of Fame
* Commissioner Donna Rojas nominated Nancy Navarro as she was the one female voice for women on the Montgomery County Council /awaiting selection status
* First in the history of the council to have six new female members, first time council is majority female

* CFW General Meeting
* December 8th meeting will be in person at 6:30 p.m./early start (Rockville Office)
* Meeting will be a team building session and holiday gathering
* Executive Committee will discuss future in person meetings to occur at least quarterly; information forthcoming when confirmed
* Executive Director Report/ Carmen Kaarid, Senior Executive Administrative Aide
* Marc Elrich, County Executive hosting upcoming Public Budget Forum
* Six forums to discuss FY24 Operating Budget throughout the county
* Community conversation to receive their input on budget allocation
* First forum is this Monday, 11.14.22 at Mid-County Regional Service Center in Wheaton (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)
* All forums will be hybrid and scheduled 7:00 – 8:30 p.m./link emailed & in chat
* FY24 Budget due to Council by March 15th will be effective July 1, 2023

**IV.        COMMITTEE REPORTS**

* **Strategic Planning & Research Evaluation (SPRE) / Chair Romero**
* Commissioner Betty Romero gave an overview of the SPRE Committee
* Values and mission statement were introduced, reviewed and moved for approval
* Some Commissioners suggested edits/changes to the mission statement
* Commissioners Betty Romero/Donna Rojas moved to approve the edits to the mission statement and values as seen on the screen. Commissioners voted and approved. No second motion required
* Mission statement will be re-visited at December’s general meeting for re-work
* Commissioners encouraged to email suggestions for mission statement to Commissioner Betty Romero
* **Policy and Legislation (PALS) / Chair Rojas Reported**
* Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) conference is on Saturday, November 12, 2022 (Silver Spring Civic Center/ 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
* MLAW conference shares new bills that impact women in Maryland
* PALS committee host Lobby Day for the bills the commission supports
* MLAW Conference link for conference provided on chat

* **Programming / Chair Rojas Reported**
* Partnering with Montgomery Women to host Career Exploration Career Fair
* Event is scheduled November 17th for the emerging leader’s population
* Focus on non-traditional careers and professionals in the field providing insight
* Students will receive SSL hours for participating
* **Budget Committee / Chair Rojas**
* Committee will be meeting soon to provide budget report at future meeting/January 2023
* Potential information to be shared will be sent via email
* **Emerging Leaders / No Report (Chair Pending)**
* Emerging Leaders (middle school/high school students)
* Engage them during events (Women’s Legislative Briefing and RespectFest, etc.)
* Commissioners encouraged to explore this committee/Chair pending
* **Public Relations / Chair Argoti**
* Committee did not meet in order to include new Commissioners that join
* Committee will work on updating roster and meeting schedules for committees
* Commissioner Isabel Argoti provided overview of committee responsibilities (social media, brochures, swag items, newsletter input, promoting programs, etc.)
* GREAT NEWS: 20K subscribers to the CFW Newsletter!
* **Women’s Legislative Briefing (WLB) / Commissioner Clark**
* Video report by Commissioner Arlinda Clark

Theme: Empowered Women Protect Democracy

Sunday, January 29, 2023 (virtual)  
Time: 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
  
Registration:   
$23.00 (through Jan. 27th)  
$30.00 (Jan. 28th & 29th)   
$5.00 (Students)

\*Commissioners must purchase tickets to attend event.

Chairs Reception will be in person (January 28, 2023/ 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.)

- Commissioners needed to serve on the following committees:  
  
Programming: 1st Thursday of the Month/6:00 p.m.

Planning: 1st Thursday of the Month/7:00 p.m.

Emerging Leaders, Evaluation and Public Relations committees

V. **LIAISON REPORTS**

* **Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Carmen Kaarid, Executive Admin.**
* No report
* **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner Royster**
* October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month
* Theme: Walk in their Shoes Campaign was a success
* 10 anonymous survivors shared stories (displayed on posters) with a pair of shoes to express their experience
* Displays were throughout Montgomery County (All libraries, recreation centers and police departments)
* **RespectFest / No Report / CFW Liaison Pending**- Commissioner Mouzon reported on upcoming RespectFest:  
    
  April 16, 2022 / 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
  Wheaton Recreation Center
* **Community Health Initiative / No Report / Chair LaVelle**
* No report

**VI.    AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – No Reports  
  
  
IX. OLD BUSINESS**

* **None**

**X. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS  
  
- None**

**XI. GOOD NEWS**

- None

**XII.      Meeting Adjourned (8:12 p.m.)**