

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Rockville Memorial Library Building
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330

Summary of Discussion

January 8, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Dinner provided by Commissioner Nageer-Kanthor

Attending:

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

Absent:

Karmen Rouland

Staff:

Sharon Morris

7:00 I. CALL TO ORDER..... President Bright Harris

- A. Call to order at 7:06pm
- B. Approval of Agenda was unanimous.
- C. Approval of December 11, 2014 and November 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Cherubin motions; Commissioner McPherson seconded. Motion carries.

7:15 II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Bright Harris

- A. Executive Director Position update – the County executive said it could go either way, but the county is moving ahead with the merit position which has been posted and is open until filled. President Bright Harris will be on the interview committee for the final selections.
- B. President Bright Harris met with Francine Walker of the Montgomery College Foundation to discuss award criteria and layers of qualification. However, the County’s legal Counsel cautioned that the scholarship cannot be restricted to a particular gender or nationality even though the Commission previously funded a scholarship for girls to attend the Montgomery College Girls Computer Camp. County attorney suggested it is fine to have a scholarship but the criteria must be gender and race neutral. It can still be deemed the Commission for Women Scholarship with Commissioners acting to assist in determining who is awarded the funds. Commissioner Lauman cautioned that this neutral criteria would need to be adhered to. One option is to have the Montgomery College Foundation manage the selection process.
- C. President Bright Harris met with the Rockville Human Rights Commission about supporting their Martin Luther King Day Celebration. The Commission will staff a table at the event to promote the work of the Commission with flyers and brochures. Commissioners Amendt and Qadri will attend and staff the table on Martin Luther King Day.

- 7:30 III. STAFF REPORT..... Morris**
- A. Update on WLB: all Commissioners are not yet registered and everyone needs to recruit more sponsorship. Registration is slightly behind but there is typically a big rush within a few weeks of the Briefing.
 - B. CFW Exhibit Table – there will be a signup page for shifts to staff the Commission for Women information table at the Briefing to answer questions and hand out brochures, etc.
 - C. Other updates: current registration: 139 so far; 6 students; need more emails; keep reaching out; Ms. Morris will report on the amount of donations to the STEM scholarship at a later date. Discussion of permanent name badges for Commissioners; online cut-off will be the Friday prior to the Briefing; in the prior year there were 100 on-site registrations.

7:40 IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy and Legislation.....**Rouland**
 - a. Commissioner Rouland had her baby; report forthcoming at a future meeting.
- B. CFW Scholarship.....**Lauman**
 - a. No new reporting; see President’s report above.
- C. WLB.....**Forde/Smith**
 - a. The next planning meeting is Jan 15, 2015; all commissioners are highly encouraged to attend the next planning meeting to get a good handle on what to expect on the day of the briefing; chairs will continue to reach out to the Governor-elect’s office for either an official visit or a representative to attend and present greetings to the attendees; proofed version of the program is due Monday, January 13.
 - b. A grateful thank you to Commissioner Forde for the beautiful coral and gold scarves from Bangkok that will be worn by all Commissioners at the Briefing!
- D. WLB - Teen Track.....**Whitehead-Quigley/McPherson**
 - a. The program is finalized; now there is a push for more registrations of students. Commissioner Whitehead-Quigley is working on screening the movie at the White Oak Recreation Center on Saturday, January 17 from 1-3 pm.

8:00 V. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. MLAW.....**Cherubin**
 - a. Sign on for the MLAW initiatives; deadline is Jan. 12.
 - b. MLAW reception is Thursday, Feb. 12; this conflicts with the February Commission meeting; discussion on whether or not to cancel or change the Commission meeting to another date in February – tabled for email communication.
- B. Campaign for Paid Sick Days.....**Cherubin**
 - a. No updates
- C. Human Trafficking Task Force.....**Mintz**
 - a. January is Human trafficking awareness month; there is a Jan 20 press conference at the state level.
 - b. Jan 31 Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force event will be held at Towson University.
 - c. Commissioner Mintz is scheduled to present at the Bethesda/Chevy Chase AAUW meeting Saturday later in January.
 - d. Is the HTTF focusing on immigrant women? Yes – either those brought into country to be prostitutes; or recruiting immigrants for underpaid or unpaid work.
- D. Teen Dating & Violence Taskforce**Qadri**
 - a. Meeting cancelled due to weather; no report

- E. Domestic Violence Task Force.....**Mintz**
a. Choose Respect conference is March; 15th

8:20 VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.....

8:30 VII. NEW BUSINESS.....

- A. Should develop a general information brochure for the MCCFW
- B. Equal pay day – April 14 – discuss in February meeting...

8:40 VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

- A. Commissioner Farrar notes that Emerge Maryland will have table at WLB; three EM graduates on the Montgomery County Central Committee; Diane Fink, director of Emerge MD, will be at a dinner after the Briefing at That’s Amore!
- B. Commissioner Farrar: Democratic Central Committee brunch on Feb 22 @ Marriott North Bethesda; MCDCC.org to register; \$60; also annual ball for DCCC - \$100
- C. President Bright Harris reminds everyone to put all their energy into briefing; the expected new Executive Director will help with programmatic initiatives that we want to accomplish for the rest of the program year; financial seminars; divorce seminars; senior women; immigrant women – need everyone’s ideas at the next meeting. We need to be “driving the bus.”

8:45 IX. ADJOURNMENT..... President Bright Harris
8:25pm