

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Rockville Memorial Library Building
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330
Thursday, April 9, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Summary of Discussion

Dinner provided by Commissioner Cherubin

Attending:

Linda Amendt
Debra Bright Harris, President
Daphnee Cherubin
Lorna Forde
Beatrice Lauman
Guilia McPherson
Barbara Mintz
Farah Nageer-Kanthor
Safia Qadri
Heather Reichardt
Karmen Rouland
Katie Smith

Not Attending:

Natalia Farrar
Angela Whitehead Quigley

Staff:

Sharon Morris

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

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm. Commissioner Mintz motioned to accept the agenda. Commissioner Rouland seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. The motion to approve March 18, 2015 meeting minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Mintz and seconded by Commissioner Qadri. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

- A. Executive Director Position update – President Bright Harris announced that the Executive Director position has been filled by Jodi Finkelstein. Ms. Finkelstein has 18 years of advocacy and non-profit experience working for NARAL and the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County. She has an MS in Social Work from the University of Maryland and was highly recommended by former Executive Director, Judith Vaughan-Prather.
- B. Commissioner Forde recounted her participation at the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center Women’s History Conference on March 15 in Baltimore. Commissioner Forde was on a panel with other women. Another speaker, Martha Elliot, talked about the history of the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center.

7:30 III. STAFF REPORT..... Morris

- A. Ethics Training will be held Thursday, April 30 in the EOB at 7:00pm. Those commissioners who have not previously taken the training are encouraged to attend.
- B. Sharon Morris is beginning to draft the annual report and will reach out for information when needed.
- C. The announcement for Commission for Women vacancies is forthcoming.

7:40 IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy and Legislation.....Rouland

- a. No updates to report
- B. CFW Scholarship..... **Lauman**
 - a. The specific language that needed to be on the check for the Montgomery College Foundation was finalized and approved as of April 9. The funds are now available to be distributed. The total \$10,500 contribution will lock in an ongoing endowment for the college. The \$500 contribution this year will be available to award to at least one student for the fall semester. Each year the Commission can make a goal of raising additional funds to contribute to the scholarship endowment.

8:00 V. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. MLAW..... **Cherubin**
 - a. MLAW plans to do an individual member recruitment starting in July. They are looking for a new liaison.
- B. Campaign for Paid Sick Days..... **Cherubin**
 - a. Legislation was tabled for this year.
- C. Human Trafficking Task Force..... **Mintz**
 - a. The next meeting has been rescheduled to April 22 to accommodate the new Commission Executive Director. Commissioner Mintz was interviewed by Bethesda Magazine for a June/July article. The county legislation proposed to license acupuncture and reflexology shops (bodyworks) is gaining momentum.
- D. Teen Dating & Violence Taskforce **Qadri**
 - a. No update as Commissioner Qadri was ill and could not attend the meeting.
- E. Domestic Violence Task Force..... **Mintz**
 - a. No meeting in March.

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

- A. Montgomery County NOW is holding an “Unhappy Hour” at Matchbox on Rockville Pike on Tuesday, April 14. Other events to mark Equal Pay Day are at the Maryland Women’s Heritage Center and the Department of Labor in Washington, DC.
- B. General discussion on whether or not to develop a general information brochure for the Commission. This is tabled until the new Executive Director has had a chance to review. Commissioner Amendt will bring in an example of an older brochure.

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

- A. Program Planning Committee:
 - a. This committee will start work as the new Executive Director gets an understanding of prior seminars and programs. The committee will include Commissioners Qadri (chair), Cherubin and Farrar (pending notification). Potential programs to create for the community include divorce seminars, aging women’s issues, immigrant women’s issues, financial literacy seminars, teen track follow up, health care, transportation for senior women. The group agreed that the commission needs to work on more grass roots oriented programs for the community. We will work toward one program per quarter. How would these programs be advertised?
- B. Follow-up on WLB survey comments:
 - a. The commissioners reviewed the summary reports generated by the Survey Committee and discussed the main themes that emerged such as:
 - i. Not enough space for networking
 - ii. Exhibitor tables too close
 - iii. Change location? Commissioner Reichardt to inquire with Bethesda North Marriott

- iv. Possibly change teen track to include college age women as mentors? This track may need a new title such as Emerging Women; Leaders of Tomorrow?
 - v. Try to eliminate the partisan comments; reach out to Republican Women's organizations? Have those groups represented on the planning committee? Perhaps need to broaden sponsorship and partnering organizations who can recommend bipartisan speakers
- C. Consider planning a recognition for Senator Mikulski's retirement – possibly an award the 2016 WLB?

8:40 VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

- A. Commissioner Amendt was struck with Norovirus and was in the hospital last week.
- B. AAUW Gaithersburg's Used Book sale occurs April 29 through May 2. Commissioner Reichardt will email the details.
- C. Commissioner Smith has a new position as the deputy scheduler for Senator Debbie Stabenau – congratulations to Commissioner Smith!

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