

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Thursday, January 14, 2021

7:00 P.M. ---On-line meeting via Zoom

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not Attending</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Donna Rojas - 1st Vice President Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President Tazeen Ahmad Isabel Argoti Mona-Lee Belizaire Tonia Bui Arlinda Clark Ijeoma Enendu Patti Maclay Angela Whitehead Quigley Chai Shenoy Tricia Swanson Meredith Weisel	Nicole Drew - President Tiffany Boiman - Recording Secretary	Tondaloya Royster
<u>Staff</u> Jodi Finkelstein Oyin Thompson		

MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Guests should introduce themselves)

Commissioner Rojas

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Commissioner Rojas

- 1st Vice President Rojas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Commissioner Ahmad moved to approve the December 2020 minutes with the following change: Commissioner Enendu raised concerns about the President's Networking Reception and asked why the reception was happening on a different day. Commissioner Maclay seconded. Motion passed.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rojas

a. Maryland Hall of Fame

- Executive Director Finkelstein announced the Commission's Maryland Hall of Fame nomination, Dr. Ruby Reese Moone, was selected by the Maryland Commission for Women.

b. Listening Tour/Strategic Plan

- Executive Director Finkelstein requested for volunteers to synthesize notes from the listening tour and strategic plan; Commissioner Enendu and Commissioner Maclay volunteered.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Finkelstein

- Executive Director Finkelstein welcomed program manager, Oyin Thompson. Commissioners introduced themselves to Ms. Thompson.
- The County acquired a new web vendor for the County Stat Program; the County is keeping the data on the back end for the Commission's "Status of Women Report: A Tale of Two Counties".

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Policy and Legislation

Commissioners Rubin/Boiman

- Many Commissioners participated in Lobby Day; there was discussion with a group of legislators; the virtual format was more interactive than attending in-person.
- The committee is working on submitting testimonies for the following legislative priorities to the General Assembly:
 - Eliminate Marriage as a Defense to Sex Crimes
 - Override to Governor Hogan's veto to a pre-release center bill the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women previously supported.
- Commissioner Argoti shared a letter from Fairfax County Commission for Women, advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment certification to occur in the first 100 days of the Biden Administration; Commissioner Rubin called a motion for the Commission to sign on to the ERA letter; Commissioner Argoti seconded the motion; motion passed.

b. Program Planning

Commissioner Enendu

- The upcoming programming dates for the Career Series is scheduled for May 4, 11, 18 and 25; the Separation and Divorce Series is scheduled for 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5 and 6/2.
- The Committee will record programs for those participants who are unable to join the live presentation. Both presenters and attendees will be notified in advance about the recording. The Committee aims to record the Separation and Divorce Series beginning in March 2021.

c. Budget

(Chair needed)

- Commissioner Ahmad will chair the Budget Committee; Commissioner Boiman, Commissioner Bui, and Commissioner Weisel are serving on the Budget Committee.

d. Research and Evaluation

(Chair needed)

e. Emerging Leaders

Commissioners Belizaire/Weisel

f. Public Relations

Commissioner Argoti

- Commissioner Argoti shared the selected logo from a County based designer.
- Executive Director Finkelstein suggested unveiling the new logo during the Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB).

G. Women's Legislative Briefing

Commissioners Rojas/Swanson

- WLB speakers and break out panel sessions were almost finalized; elected officials were invited to submit videos; the flyer and press release were completed. This year's sponsors include AARP, Kaiser Permanente, and CareFirst. Commissioners Rojas requested for Commissioners to help facilitate the four WLB Breakout sessions.
- This year's two interactive Emerging Leaders sessions are focused on the power of advocacy and mentoring; both will be led by three student leaders (accompanied by 2 adults).
 - Session topics include: racial justice; virtual learning impacts and gun violence; building bridges; and the importance of mentors and opportunities to help the community.
 - The Emerging Leaders Student speaker will be Vienna Cheshire, the Commission's summer intern and Emerging Leaders committee member; she created the flyer/social media graphic.

Commissioner Swanson reported that during the January 7 WLB planning meeting, Commissioner Clark announced the President's Networking Reception (reception) will be held on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. (the night before the WLB) and hosted on either the CFW or president's Zoom.

- Discussion ensued about the planning and hosting of the President's Networking Reception. Commissioner Belizaire noted the Commission did not have the President's Networking Reception planning process or logistics written down; she suggested documenting the process for next year's planning; Commissioner Weisel brought up this suggestion during the December 2020 Commission meeting.
- It was suggested that the Committee revisit the Commission's governing documents for guidance on the issue regarding respective roles of the President and Committee Chairs.
- Discussion ensued regarding the lack of confidence in fully executing the President's reception due to the lack of unity and communication. It was mentioned that President was not here due to a death in the family.
- Commissioner Ahmad moved and it was seconded to leave the President's reception on the same day as the WLB. An inquiry was made regarding who would plan the reception if it were held on the same day as the WLB. The response was that the WLB Committee would plan it.
- A discussion ensued regarding withdrawing Commissioner Ahmad's motion with another option to have the President, Executive Director, and WLB Co-Chairs to meet regarding this matter prior to making the decision. It was noted that Commissioner Ahmad's motion could not be withdrawn as it now belongs to the body but an amendment could be made to the motion and voted on by the body.
- Commissioner Whitehead Quigley moved for the co-chairs to consult with the President and the Executive Director, within the next 72 hours, as to when/how the President's Networking Reception will be held; a final decision will be made by the Co-Chairs of the WLB; The motion was seconded and approved the amendment with 11 yesses and 1 no. This amendment became the substitute motion.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report only)

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| a. MLAW | Commissioner Rubin |
| • Commissioner Rubin reported that all of the Commission's priority bills were incorporated; MLAW will host a virtual reception on January 28, 2021 at 5 p.m. via Zoom; she is the liaison for the Paid Family Leave bill. | |
| b. HTPC/DV | Commissioners Rojas/Drew |
| c. Maryland Commission for Women | Executive Director Finkelstein |
| d. Choose Respect (Respectfest) | Commissioner Whitehead Quigley |
| e. Community Health Needs Assessment Adv. Committee | Commissioner Maclay |

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)

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| a. CFW Scholarship | Commissioners Maclay/Argoti |
| b. Social Committee | Commissioner Rojas |
| c. By-Laws | Commissioner Drew |

VIII. Old Business

Commissioner Maclay raised concerns with unresolved issues with the president's leadership. It was emphasized in the meeting that there is a need for the Commission to acquire a facilitator to resolve internal issues. It was also noted that while there were challenges to be worked out it should not be done in a public meeting.

IX. New Business/Announcements

- 1st Vice President Rojas' closed suggesting for the Commissioners to reflect individually on how to move forward; she thanked the Commissioners for their work.
- Commissioner Belizaire announced her resignation and that this was her last Commission meeting; the Commissioners thanked Commissioner Belizaire for her service.

X. Adjourn

- 1st Vice President Rojas adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.