**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, June 17, 2021

7:00 P.M. ---On-line meeting via Zoom

**Attendance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attending** | **Not Attending** | **Guests** |
| Donna Rojas – President  Diana Rubin - 2nd Vice President  Patti Maclay - Secretary  Isabel Argoti  Tonia Bui  Arlinda Clark  Nicole Drew  Jan Molino  Betty Romero  Chai Shenoy  Angela Whitehead Quigley  **Staff**  Jodi Finkelstein  Rose Allen  Oyin Thompson | Tazeen Ahmad – 1st VP  Ijeoma Enendu  Tricia Swanson  Meredith Weisel |  |

**MINUTES**

**I.       WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** (No guests. All meetings recorded)

President Rojas called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

New Commissioners Jan Molino and Betty Romero were introduced.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA President Rojas**

* Commissioner Maclay moved to approve the May Meeting minutes and the May meeting agenda.
* Commissioner Drew had edits in the bylaws as listed in the minutes and she will email those changes to Commissioner Maclay. Motion to approve May minutes as amended and the agenda passed..

**III.       EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT President Rojas**

* President Rojas reported on the MD CFW Round Table held on June 10, 2021. Commissioner Rubin represented MoCo CFW. The meeting highlight was their status report. President Rojas urged Commissioners to complete the Round Table follow-up survey for the benefit of the Maryland CFW. A second survey on the impact of COVID-19 is to be completed by Maryland citizens.
* The Strategic Plan was discussed. It was proposed that the Research and Development Committee (R&E Comm.) prepare a revised Plan for presentation to the entire Commission in 90 days. The Strategic Plan will include goals, action plan, and timeline and will take into consideration the Status of Women Report.

The present Strategist Plan will be carried through until June 2022. After discussion by the entire Commission, the new Strategic Plan will be implemented in July, 2022.

* President Rojas requested that those who wish to run for a position on the Executive Committee submit their Intent to Run forms to both Commissioner Enendu and Ex. Dir. Finkelstein by July 8. 2021.

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

* The County is closed for the Juneteenth Holiday.
* The County is reopening offices, but the CFW will remain virtual for now.
* Our new interns begin next week, They are high school students and will be working virtually Tuesday thru Thursday.
* Committee lists and their members will be sent to the Commissioners to allow changes in committee membership.

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Public Relations**  **Commissioner Argoti**

* There will be a “Meet the Commissioner” campaign in July to introduce Commissioners to the community. Basic information will be included as well as the Commissioner’s answer to set question.
* Human Trafficking Prevention Committee will have a Twitter and Instagram accounts, and a Facebook page. Posts will be “re-blogged or reposted” or, if they are new, vetted by the PR Committee.
* There was a request that Commissioners send any month or day events they find to the PR Committee for our content calendar of events, celebrations, and commemorations so they can be acknowledged or posted on our social media.

1. **WLB**   **Commissioner** **Rojas**

* The President’s Networking Reception (PNR) was held on June 12,, 2021. Commissioner Rojas supported the new virtual format. Thirty organization presidents participated. Rather than verbally presenting their contact information, it was placed in the chat and the actual networking was done in breakout sessions. Discussion centered on the roles the organizations played and the benefits of and recommendations for future WLB’s. All participants returned to the “Main Stage” and interacted with a Democrat and Republican legislators. Discussion included Q&A and a charge for the future

**VI.       LIAISON REPORTS**

1. **HTPC/**DV                                                                          **Commissioner Maclay**

* The County will screen immigrant minors for human trafficking and offer them services. A MoCo version of Baltimore’s “Blue Dot” program called S.E.A.T (Sexually Exploited And Trafficked) will assist police in seamlessly moving a HT victim from the street into services. Cards are being prepared to “remind” police of the steps in processing a victim. Information cards will be created for the victims will have a phone number to call for assistance. Time has been added to the curriculum at MCPS to educate students about HT. This has been 5 years in the making.
* The question was raised as to services for youth versus adults and that is being explored.

**VII.    AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

1. **By-Laws Commissioner Drew**

* **Amendment #1 (Pg. 5, Article VI, Sec.6) Passed**

**Deleted:** Section 6. Advisory Committees. An Advisory Committee may, by majority vote of the Commission, be established when the Commission deems such committee(s) to be necessary or desirable to support the mission of the Commission.

* **Amendment #2 (Pg. 6, Article VII Sec. 1,2) Passed**

Section 1. Task Forces - The Commission for Women may from time to time participate in establishing Task Forces to further the goals and purposes of the Commission for Women, in accordance with the applicable county laws and policy. At least one member of the Commission

* **Amendment #3 (Pg. 8, Article IX, Sec. 1, 2) Passed**

Section 1. Voting - Only those Commissioners appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Council and ex-officio members of the Commission are eligible to vote.

* **Amendment #4 (Pg. 1, Article III, Sec. 1) Passed**

Section 1. Officers – The officers of the Commission shall include the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (also respectively referred to herein as “Chair” and “Vice Chair”), as required by Montgomery County Code, Article II, Sec. 27-28(a). Additional officers shall include Second Vice Chair, Secretary and other such officers as the Commission shall from time to time deem necessary and appropriate.

* + **Amendment #5 ( Pg. 4, Article III, Sec. 3) Passed**

Section 3. Nominations for Officers – Nominations for officers shall be by letter of intent. The President shall appoint the Executive Director and a Commissioner who is not running for office to be responsible for receiving the slate of nominees for the current election. The appointed Commissioner shall present the slate of nominees for the current election. Intent to run forms for the office of President, Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary shall be submitted to each commissioner at or before the June meeting. The forms must be submitted to the appointed Commissioner and the Executive Director at or before the July meeting. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at the July meeting, with the consent of the nominee. The slate of candidates shall be announced by the appointed Commissioner at the July meeting.

* + **Amendment #6** **(Pg.5** **Article VI Section 7) Failed**

Section 7. Selection Committee – The Commission shall convene an ad hoc Selection Panel for the purpose of interviewing and recommending candidates to fill vacancies on the Commission when necessary. Members of the Selection Panel shall consist of Commissioners. The president shall serve as the Chair of the Selection Panel, unless the president’s appointment term is slated for renewal in the current year. If the president is unable to serve, the next officer in line to act in the president’s absence shall serve as the Chair. Generally, the committee meets during July and August as it deems necessary for the business of the committee.

The “personnel matters” exception for a closed session meeting under the Open Meetings Act is appropriate for the Selection Panel meetings. See § 3-305(b)(1) of the Maryland Open Meetings Act. The Commission shall follow applicable procedures under the Open Meetings Act for holding a closed session.

In order to ensure fairness and consistency during the interview process, the Selection Panel shall consist of three voting members for each interview. Each Panel member shall cast no more than one vote for each applicant. An alternate commissioner should be considered for scheduling purposes. The committee shall operate within the guidelines set in the Selection Panel procedures. No Commissioner whose term is slated for renewal or termination shall serve as a member of the Selection Panel.

The staff liaison shall maintain all documents from the application process. The Panel works with the staff liaison to forward its recommendation(s) to the County Executive.

* **Amendment #7 (Pg. 7, Article VIII, Sec. 5) Passed**

Section 5. Executive Committee Attendance – The President shall consult with the members of the Executive Committee to establish a set time for Executive Committee meetings. Any officer of the Commission is subject to the attendance policy as delineated in section 2-148(b) of the county code. The President shall give prompt notice of any resignation of an officer to the Executive Committee and the full Commission. A replacement shall be sought by special election at the next Commission meeting.

* **Amendment #8 (Pg. 8, Article IX, Sec. 3) Passed**:

Section 3. Absentia - A member must be present at a Commission meeting or attend via an approved electronic method in order to vote. There shall be no voting by mail or proxy at meetings of the Commission for Women.

* **Amendment #9 (Global Stylistic Change) Passed**

Change Staff designation to Executive Director or the designee throughout the document

* **Amendment #10 (Global Stylistic Change) Passed**

Change President to Chair/Vice Chair throughout the document

* **Amendment #11 (Pg. 1 Article 1 Added) Passed**

The purpose and duties of the Commission for Women are delineated in Montgomery County Code Article II Section 27 – 29 [Link to County Code]

In case any provision in this document is in conflict with the current Montgomery County Code, such provision shall be governed by the applicable current Montgomery County Code. Commissioners are reminded to consult the County Code to ensure compliance with current law.

**Amendment #12** was tabled awaiting County guidance as to the status of remote meetings.

**VIII. Old Business**

1. **CFW face masks**

Exec. Dir. Finkelstein had no updates but will follow up and report.

**b) Suffrage 2020**

Commissioner Bui reported that Sandy Spring Museum, a previous Suffrage 2020 sponsor, is unveiling a marker that was delayed by the pandemic. The CFW will be partnering with planning and social media support. Commissioners were invited to participate. The event is Sunday, September 12 at 2:00 PM at the Sandy Spring Museum.

**c) Ad Hoc Committee against Hate**

Commissioner Shenoy reported that the CFW met with the County’s Hate Violence Committee. The plan is to partner with them on a seven part speakers series slated for the Fall, 2021 as well as with advocacy and lobbying.

**d) Advisory Committee Planning**

The Planning Committee originally designated the Advisory Committee to be 12 members. It is felt that this number will be reached with the next round of new Commissioner interviews. Once the number is reached, a social “Meet & Greet” for the Advisory Committee members will be held in late summer, followed by the first official meeting to be slated for September, 2021.

**IX. New Business/Announcements**

* **Wheaton Arts Parade**

Commissioner Argoti reported that the plan is to table at this Wheaton city event as a community engagement along with other County groups. The date is September 19th (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and Commissioners are encouraged to support and attend. She requested Commissioner to report if they hear of any other events that the CFW might attend.

* Commissioner Tazeen Ahmad will step down from the Commission, but will be a member of the newly formed Advisory Committee.
* Happy Birthday! (June 4) Commissioner Bui!

**X. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by President Rojas at 9:07 PM