**Montgomery County Commission for Women**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

7:00 P.M. ---On-line meeting via Zoom

**Attendance**

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

**MINUTES**

**I.         WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  (Guests introduced themselves)

* All meetings are recorded.

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

* Commissioner Drew offered an update that the January Minutes were approved on April 20, 2021. Executive Director Finkelstein will send all Commissioners a finalized copy.
* Commissioner Rubin moved to approve the April Meeting minutes and the May meeting agenda. Commissioner Bui seconded.

**III.        EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT President Rojas**

* Commissioner Rojas and Executive Director Finkelstein met with the Olney Rotary Club to present the work of the Commission with a focus on our COVID-19 response.
* The Maryland Commission for Women is hosting their annual Roundtable Meeting of Maryland County/City Commissions for Women on Thursday, June 10, 2021. This meeting focus will be networking and an information exchange referable to our COVID-19 responses. Executive Director Finkelstein will forward the information to all Commissioners. Those interested in attending are requested to contact her.
  + Since this State CFW meeting date conflicts with our existing MoCo CFW meeting, our June meeting will be rescheduled to Thursday, June 17, 2021. A Commissioner’s absence will not be penalized for this rescheduled meeting.
* Commission Selection Committee—volunteers needed.
  + Two new Commissioners will be joining in June. Currently, there are 4-5 Commissioners who have the option to renew. Executive Director Finkelstein will finalize the number of openings once these renewals are confirmed. Commissioners who are up for renewal cannot serve on the Selections Committee. Commissioners are to contact Executive Director Finkelstein if they wish to serve on this committee.
* 50th Anniversary Planning Committee—volunteers needed
  + Commissioners are to contact Executive Director Finkelstein if interested in serving on this committee. A Chair will be selected from among the Committee volunteers. Our 50th Anniversary will be celebrated in June, 2022.
* Strategic Planning and Listening Tour
  + Commissioner Drew will finalize writing the report by the end of this month.

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

* Rose will be graduating from the University of Maryland on May 21, 2021 with a Masters of Social Work. The Commissioners offered her much thanks and congratulations!
  + Two high school interns have been selected for this summer. They are from Whitman HS and Sherwood HS and will serve with the CFW from the end of June to the end of August. There is a growing interest in our CFW internships with many students asking for Fall internship opportunities, --a testament to our work in the community.

**V.        COMMITTEE REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)**

1. **Policy and Legislation**  **Commissioner Rubin**

* Commissioner Rubin shared that two of the four CFW supported bills passed in the Maryland Assembly. Support was done virtually and via letters.
  + *Maryland Health Equity Resource Act* – passed.
  + *Paid Family and Medical Leave Bill* did not make it out of committee but its sponsor expressed hope for next year’s passage.
  + *Maryland Essential Workers Protections Act* - passed.
  + *Repeal of Spousal Defense* *Bill* - not passed. Commissioner Drew shared that after passing both House and Senate, amendments were added in an attempt to strip the original bill of its effect and the bill was withdrawn.

1. **Program Planning**  **Commissioner** **Enendu**

* Commissioner Enendu shared the dates for programming where proctors are still needed. Commissioners were encouraged to sign-up to serve.
* The CFW Career Series and Self Defense courses dates are set.
* Commissioner Rubin asked about the *Sex After 50* program. Commissioner Enendu shared that this is still in the planning stage.

1. Budget CommissionerAhmad

d. Research and Evaluation (Chair needed)

1. **Emerging Leaders Commissioner Weisel**

* The Girl Power Contest is done and was a great success one of the largest number of entries to date. Thank you to all the judges. Winners were sent bags of confetti, chocolates, and WLB swag items.

1. **Public Relations**  **Commissioner** **Argoti**

* The Committee did not meet this past month but is still working virtually updating both the CFW Resource List and website.
* Commissioner Rojas commended both on the quality and the constancy of our CFW media presence. Commissioner Argoti also highlighted Program Manager Oyin for her social media and newsletter efforts.

1. WLB Commissioners Rojas/Swanson

**VI.       LIAISON REPORTS (Committees in BOLD to report out)**

1. MLAW                                                                                    Commissioner Rubin
2. HTPC/DV                                                                             Commissioner Maclay
3. Maryland Commission for Women                          Executive Director Finkelstein
4. **Choose Respect (Respectfest)              Commissioner Whitehead-Quigley**

* Respectfest took place on April 18 with nearly 1,00 people participating. SSL hours were issued to students despite the virtual format. Winning videos can be seen here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fjc/chooserespect/video.html>

1. Community Health Needs Assessment Board Commissioner Maclay

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

1. CFW Scholarship                                      Commissioners Maclay/Argoti
2. Social Committee                                                              Commissioner Rojas
3. **By-Laws Commissioner Drew**

* The Bylaws Committee reviewed the CFW bylaws, which can be amended in Spring (May present, June vote) and Fall (October present, November vote). A few of the proposed changes were a continuation from 2020 and required finalization. There were questions about proposed amendments so the Commission consulted the County Attorney (CA) who reviewed the entirety of our by-laws and offered recommendations. Amendments 1 – 3 involve alignment with County Code, Amendments 4 – 8 involve substantive changes and clarification, Amendments 9 – 11 are stylized changes, and Amendment 12 involves remote meetings which will be decided based on County guidelines.
* The County Attorney’s August 12, 2020 Memorandum offered changes and various sections were approved without change.
* **Amendment #1 - Article VI, Section 6:** Itwas added last year but CA recommended removal with the rationale that the Commission President has appointment authority in our charter as per the County Code. We may want to further clarify our Charter in the future re: the addition of the entire Commission’s input, but at this time this Amendment will be deleted.
* **Amendment #2** – **Article VII, Section 1,2** Combines the two sections on task forces as they conflict with County laws and policies. The section will be reworded to comply with county law. Any future internal projects or research will be designated “committees.”
* **Amendment #3 – Article IX Sections 1,2**: Changed to include CA guidance on ex-officio member voting. Presently there are certain ex-officio members on the Commission (Board of Ed., DHHS, and any city, town or district who appoints an ex-officio member to the CFW) who are designated to have a voting membership If we want this to be changed, we will need to change the Charter.
* **Amendment #4** – **Article 3 Section 1:** The County Code designates the CFW “president” be named as a Chairperson to be consistent. Only the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are required by County Code, but we are permitted to add additional officers (2nd Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and any other positions deemed necessary).
* **Amendments #5 Article III Section 3:** Concerning the nomination of officers, the CA stated that “committees” are subject to the Open Meetings Act and requires three members. Accordingly, the amendment will clarify that the proposed slate of officer nominees is to be accepted by a commissioner who is appointed by the CFW Chairperson (not a Nomination Chair) and is not running for office, as well as the Executive Director.
  + **Amendment #6** **Article VI Section 7:** Creation of a Selection Committee would be subject to the Open Meetings Act, so this change would place a “personnel matters” exception” clause to allow for a closed session meeting thereby limiting access to CFW applicants’ information. Executive Director Finkelstein suggested that we could change the name from “committee” to “panel” to reduce the work around the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Whitehead-Quigley suggest we again consult the CA on this issue.
* **Amendment #7** **Article 8 Section 5**: Executive Committee’s attendance will be changed to conform to the county code.
* **Amendment #8 Article IX Section 3:** Delineates that there is no vote by proxy at Commission meetings, but this does not apply to committee meetings.
* **Amendment #9, #10, #11** - stylistic changes to be consistent in all our documents. Delete any excessive words that restate the law and replace with abbreviated wordage and links to the actual law.
* **Amendment #12** **Article VIII Section 6**: Tables remote meetings amendment until the County finalizes there definition and County Code changes.
* Commissioner Rojas questioned the changes referable to the delegation of who speaks on behalf of the Commission.

**VIII. Old Business**

1. CFW face masks

* No update but Commissioner Swanson will follow up with Executive Director Finkelstein.

1. Mediation

* Commissioner Rojas asked for Commissioner input concerning the proposed conflict resolution/mediation session. She expressed that team building might be of greater value.
* Commissioner Enendu supported mediation to address issues before new commissioners are onboarded and Commissioner Drew should have the opportunity to respond to address the issues brought up in both the letter and discussions. Commissioner Rojas would prefer that this not be addressed in a public forum but in a separate private meeting. This was supported by Commissioner Whitehead-Quigley.
* Commissioner Enendu requested that a CFW bylaws change be made to address how future conflicts are to be resolved.
* Commissioner Ahmad and Executive Director Finkelstein will contact the MoCo Conflict Resolution Center and set a date for meeting.

**IX. New Business/Announcements**

* Commissioners who wish to run for an Executive Office position must have their letters of intent submitted before the July meeting. Executive Director Finkelstein will email information prior to the June meeting.
* Happy Birthday, Angela! Happy Birthday, Oyin!
* Commissioner Rubin asked about returning to in-person meetings. Executive Director Finkelstein shared that they are bringing employees back first and then will decide about boards and commissions. It may be a hybrid model, but more information will be shared as received from the County.

**X. Adjourn**

* Meeting was adjourned by President Rojas at 8:43pm.