

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes / Virtual
July 13, 2023 / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**



“I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own”

Audre Lorde

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Isabel Argoti Vice Chair

Betty Romero, 2nd Vice Chair

Kathy Estrada

LaDonna King

Janet Lavelle

Helene Meister

Kimberly Mouzon

Liz Richards

Tondalayo Royster

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Carmen Kaarid, Program Manager

Hannah Mullins (Intern)

Absent

Jodi Danis

Ijeoma Enendu

Lindsey Turnbull

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

Welcome and introductions

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

- Approval of July 13, 2023 Meeting Agenda
Motion to Change order of Agenda:

Nominations Report and Executive Director Report (change reporting order)
Change approved by Commissioners

- Approval of June 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Approved by Commissioners

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT / CHAIR CLARK

- By-laws submitted to attorney for review
- WLB updates (see committee report)
- CFW vacancies
- Tonya Paylor confirmed as new commissioner
- June 30th term ends for some commissioners / submit application if interested in continuing to serve

IV. NOMINATIONS REPORT / VICE CHAIR CLARK

- Officer elections are held in August
- Candidates have 90 seconds to speak
- Commissioner Isabel Argoti (intent to run/Vice Chair)
- Secretary and Second Vice Chair / no intent to run submitted

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

- Three interns on CFW Team (Liam, Diana and Hannah Mullins)
- Diana will be with CFW until the end of June
- Liam and Hannah will be with CFW until the end of the summer

- CFW Community Engagement Cluster
- Recently hired Alexia, Special Assistant to support Directors
- Alexia will send CFW email correspondence (be mindful of emails)

- Jodi Finkelstein will be out of the office next week and will read email intermittently
- Emails should be sent to Carmen Kaarid

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy and Legislation / Co-Chairs, Commissioners Royster and Meister

- No Report

Program Planning / Chair, Commissioner Enendu

- Next Meeting: July 24, 2023 / 7:00 pm

Nominations Committee / Chair, Commissioner Enendu

- One intent to run / 1st Vice Chair (Commissioner Isabel Argoti)

- Elections were held for Interim Vice Chair, Isabel Argoti was elected

Elections/ Chair, Clark

- Officer elections in August
- Commissioners can express intent to run on the floor

Budget / Chair Clark)

- Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein provided an overview of the budget

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee./ 2nd Vice Chair, Romero

- SPRE Strategic Planning Annual Work Session / September 9, 2023 (8:30 am – 12:30 pm)
- Discuss what transpired in previous months
- Revisit Commissioners passions and interest
- Self-Assessment Survey forthcoming to prepare for meeting / Commissioners to complete

Emerging Leaders / Commissioners Argoti and Turnbull

- Recently met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 / discussed programs to offer interns this year
- Looking to hear from participants their interest and what they would attend (roundtable discussions, etc.)
- Long term implementation ideas / youth advisory
- Hannah, intern researching additional topics of interest

Public Relations / Commissioner Argoti

- Ordering new items
 - first aid kits to include band aids, pens, update old swag items with new logo
- Upcoming table events
 - National Night Out / August 1st (4-8pm) / Silver Spring & Olney
 - Ama Tu Vida Health Fair / August 6th (12-4pm) / Montgomery College (Rockville)
 - Back to School Fair / August 26th (10 am – 1pm) Wheaton Mall
- Content Management
 - Content organizing by month
 - Alignment with County messaging
 - Monitor metric for sharing

- Review posting guidelines
- Public Information Office is a resource that can provide assistance

Women's Legislative Briefing / Chair, Clark

- WLB Date: Sunday, January 28, 2024 (last Sunday in January)
- Theme: From Proposal to Passage: Collaborating for Justice and Equality
- Focus on moving legislation and women forward
- Planning in person event but may have to go virtual
- Location pending which will impact ticket cost, etc.
 - North Bethesda Marriott
 - Local High Schools equivalent to college campus
 - The Universities at Shady Grove
- Keynote Speaker Possibilities
 - Kamala Harris, Vice President, US
 - Michelle Obama, Former First Lady, US
 - Ketangi Brown Jackson, Supreme Court, US
 - Sonia Sotomayor, Supreme Court, US
 - Condoleeza Rice, Former Secretary of State, US (not available 2024)
 - Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury, US
 - Awaiting responses / considering reaching out to these individuals for future WLB dates
- Currently brainstorming workshop speakers
- Workshop topics pending
- Seeking participation from all commissioners

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Meister

- Membership fees are due (\$125)
- Budget Committee Approved (Funds from County budget)
- Commissioner Meister moved to approved the \$125
- 2nd Vice Chair Romero moved to second
- Commissioners approved
- Researching venue for legislative conference
- Legislative Conference Date / November 4, 2023
- Legislative wrap up will meet in person or hybrid

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner Royster

- Meeting soon to plan Domestic Violence Awareness Month event in October
- DVCC Presence at the Back-to-School Event / August 26, 2023 (Wheaton Mall)
- Outreach Opportunities / ‘Coaching Boys into Men’ reaching High School Athlete Football Teams /focus healthy relationships
- Outreach Opportunities / ‘Athletes as Leaders’ reaching High School Females / focus healthy relationships

Maryland Commission for Women, Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

- No additional reporting

Choose Respect / Commissioner Mouzon

- No Report

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaVelle

- Health equity training opportunity (audience professional social workers)

CFW Scholarship / Commissioner Argoti

- No report

VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

- Submitted to legal liaison (Katherine Llyod), she had a few comments
- Article 1: Our charter says we are the CFW, so we will be strategic in how we brand; charter does not say anything about abbreviations
- Say name/org is Commission for Women
- Other comments were with items not introduced this round of revision (e.g., quotes, making sure charter language matches the by-laws)

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- Mentioned several times we need SOP Committee (Chair/Clark)
- We have a lot of processes, procedures, we need to document those processes/procedures
- Provide continuity/institutional knowledge
- Committee of three; work with Arlinda
- Put name in chat: (or will call around)
- Behind the scenes work/good opportunity to contribute for individuals who are short on Time

- Advisory Committee (Chair/Clark)
- Framework
- Arlinda only one on the committee, need a few people on the committee to get it going

X. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Talked about meeting in person a few times a year
- 4x a year to meet in-person
- Checked to see if that was doable; consensus that is doable
- OCT, DEC, MAR, JUN as months to meet
- Get on our calendars now for planning purposes
- Discussed DEC; decided we will NOT meet in-person
- OCT, MAR, JUN will be our in-person events
- Discussed vacation in JUN
- Strategic Planning Annual Work Session in September is not a general commission meeting
- Since COVID, we signed on for telework; only allowed 2 misses a year
- 3 in-person meetings a year; strategically and evenly mapped throughout the year
- Liked having virtual option for those that cannot attend in-person because of other obligations
- Bringing this up for future planning
- (Liz Comment: No final decision from what I can tell)

XI. Meeting Adjourned