

**Commission for Women
General Meeting Minutes / In-Person
October 12, 2023 / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**



“We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.”

Maya Angelou

Attendees

Arlinda Clark, Chair

Isabel Argoti Vice Chair

Lindsey Turnbull, 2nd Vice Chair

Jodi Danis

Ijeoma Enendu

Tonja Paylor

Betty Romero

Liz Richards

Tondalayo Royster

Kimberly Mouzon

CFW Team Members

Jodi Finkelstein, Executive Director

Absent

Kathy Estrada

LaDonna King

Janet LaValle

Helene Meister

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / CHAIR CLARK

-No guests this evening

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA / CHAIR CLARK

- Accept the agenda as presented

- August minutes

Corrections to Sec 5:

- 5th bullet: Nominations from the floor will be done via a write-in /google form to remain anonymous. Google form link in chat

Should Read:

- Write-in candidates will be done via the google form. Google form link in chat.

Last bullet:

- Due to complications with the poll, all candidates will give their speech, at the end, Commissioners will vote by the poll and the only things written are those added to the form

Should Read

- Due to the poll being set up as one ballot for all positions, all candidates will give their speech, at the end, Commissioners will vote by the poll and the only things written are those added to the form

-Tellers report in the minutes is what was what was announced; the Tellers' report needs to be revised at the next meeting for transparency to reflect the following:

1. Number of votes cast for each position
2. Nominations from the floor for each position
3. Nominate by name and the number of votes casted for that nominee for each position (majority determined by number of votes casted)

- The Nomination Committee took this for action at NOV's meeting
 - It was noted the Nomination Committee can pull out report from Zoom

- No other corrections to August's minutes

August minutes with corrections accepted by the commission

September Minutes

- September minutes adopted as written

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT / CHAIR CLARK

- Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence: Asked for sponsorship for annual meeting on 24 OCT 2023

Sponsored at \$100 level in 2022

Have up to \$5,000 for sponsorships

Have not spent any sponsorship money yet

County funds; does not come from restricted budget; does need to be approved through county but not an issue

Motion to sponsor MNADV at \$100 level; Motion seconded; Motion carried

- Montgomery County Code required training: Maryland Open Meetings Act, Basic Parliamentary Procedures, and Montgomery County Public Ethics Law
 - o Aim to have done by next meeting

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT / JODI FINKELSTEIN

- Two new interns (Jr. at Paint Branch, Sr. at Blair; M/W, 4 hrs per a week)
- Conference sponsored by Baltimore Record; Jodi F. will be moderator for the panel; 25 OCT
- Commissioner Royster represented commission at DV and Breast Cancer Awareness Month events
- Community Budget Meetings (variety of languages available)

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- PALS Committee moves to recommends commission host Lobby Day this year; motions carries
 - o Explanation of Lobby Day (e.g., champion legislation to state legislatures)
 - o Looking at second week of December (13/14 DEC tentative)

Program Planning / Chair, Commissioner Enendu

- Reminder working on virtual career fair, 16 NOV, 7 – 8:30pm; in need of speakers (non-traditional careers – STEM, fire department, in need of military)
 - o Target group, female middle/high schooler
 - o Need 8 speakers
- Bringing back career series in Spring 2024
 - o Would like to use former Commissioners with experience in this area
 - o Updated courses (e.g., entrepreneurship, online interviews)
- Sexual health & wellness
 - o Have doctor on board; finalizing details
- Looking to leverage former commissioners
- Question: DV programming? Example of MCASA’s credit program

Budget / Chair Clark

- Sponsorships: \$5,000
- Two pots of money (restricted – money the commissioned raised vs county funding – from the budget process)
- Human Trafficking: \$2,500 (being spent)
- Re-entry Program: \$50,000 (encumbered; need to go through hiring process; examine what commission did pre-COVID)
 - o Have contract through HHS to hire someone
 - o Pre-COVID: Commission did tour/focus group in jail on help; said they need re-entry program; majority of existing re-entry programs are faith based
 - o Pre-COVID: Commission ran drop in groups by LCSW (not counseling)
 - o Re-entry program was for women in Montgomery County

Strategic Planning and Research Evaluation Committee/ Commissioner Romero

- Successful Strategic Planning last month
- Introduce Strategic Plan to the county
- Action Plan has all the information in once place; living document
- Continue to build out partnerships to help commission's mission; add partners to the spreadsheet that the commission can work with
 - o Could help identify speakers for programming
- Discussion on the three issues central to the strategic plan (i.e., women's economic health, women in leadership, women's health and safety)
 - o Unclear if there was a past commission vote to adopt the three priorities; Will do a formal vote to adopt the three priorities at our next meeting in NOV
 - o Vote on the issue areas not in past minutes, so will vote on the issues areas next month
- Motion to have commission focus its efforts on one of the primary issues areas (not which priority though)
 - o Motion moved to next month

Emerging Leaders / Vice Chair Argoti and 2nd Vice Chair Turnbull

- Looked into Youth Advisory Board
 - o Do not have resources/staff at this time
 - o Focus on existing projects at this time where youth can contribute
- Have EL participate in EL track of WLB

Public Relations / Vice Chair Argoti

- Looking for co-chair
- Content calendar; due to update for fall
 - How we can highlight partners
 - Events/awareness events for NOV/DEC
 - Doing events on different platforms
 - Promote the newsletter
 - 22,703 subscriptions
 - Send ideas for newsletter to Carmen
- Commissioner Paylor will help
- Streamline all listserv and partners, to make sure information gets pushed to those not online

Women's Legislative Briefing / Vice Chair Argoti

- Programming and Planning meeting on 5 OCT
 - o 4 sessions running at same time + EL
 - o Topic Ideas: Spectrum of reproductive health; impact of AI; Civic engagement; mental health; women in leadership; impact of pandemic on women
 - o Run sessions twice
 - o Finalizing sponsorships
 - o Will raise price, keep under \$50; new price is a discussion
 - o Looking at child care options (3-10 yrs); \$2,500

- Should have final prices by end of the month
- Waiting for response back on speaker (invite went out o/a 28 AUG 23)
 - Follow up next week
 - Inviting First Lady Dawn Moore to be speaker

Standard Operating Procedures / Commissioner LaValle

-No report

6. LIAISON REPORTS

MLAW / Commissioner Royster

- Conference 4 NOV, 9am – 1pm
- Sponsorship: PALS recommends Silver Sponsorship/\$200 for MLAW
 - Discussion of \$300 sponsorship
 - Moving to amend \$300 sponsorship; seconded to discuss
 - Silver an increase from last year (sponsored at \$100 last year)
 - Discussion on how much we spent on sponsorship during FY22; last year spent \$500 overall
 - Maryland CFW is sponsoring 2 tickets for MLAW
 - How commissioners get the ticket
 - Chairs (Isabel will represent)
 - MLAW (Helene)
 - PALs Committee
 - Rest of commission
 - Vote on \$300 sponsorship level did not pass
 - Commission voted on \$200 level sponsorship; Commission will sponsor MLAW at \$200 level

Human Trafficking Prevention (HTP) / Commissioner Estrada

- HTP rolled out bus campaign on 13/14 buses; take picture if you see one; also on bus shelters
- Moving forward with Blue Dot campaign; training LE, fire fighters, school systems on how to identify victims and to send to Shady Grove hospital (Safe Passage)
 - First for MOCO
- Training 500 members in the school system on 31 OCT
- Next Meeting: Third Wed in NOV; from Catholic Charities; International Trafficking and how to get help

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) / Commissioner Royster

- October is DV awareness month; doing display at Silver Spring Civic Center
 - Theme: Know the Signs of Domestic Violence

- 40 signs on display in English and Spanish
- Outreach: Going into the middle school and high schools and doing education on healthy relationships

Maryland Commission for Women, Executive Director, Jodi Finkelstein

- Nominations for Maryland Young Leaders due tomorrow, 13 OCT
High school students

Choose Respect / Commissioner Mouzon

- No report

Community Health Initiative / Commissioner LaValle

- No report

CFW Scholarship / Commissioner Argoti

- No report

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

By-Laws / Chair Clark

- Next round in June

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has training with the Family Justice Center; Training Institute and can tailor training

Maryland Women of Color has their conference on 12 NOV

10. Meeting Adjourned

CFW In Person Meetings Scheduled:

March 14, 2024

June 13, 2024