



Fairfax County Commission for Women

The commission's charge is to **promote the full equality** of **women** and **girls** in the county.



Commission for Women Meeting Minutes

Date: December 8, 2014	Time: 7:20 – 9:43 pm	Location: Government Center, Room 232
Meeting Commenced	Chair Bhatnagar called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.	
Commissioners Present	Cynthia Bhatnagar, Chair, Mason; Sondra Seba Hemenway, Vice Chair, At-Large; Barbara Lippa, Sully; Laura Sizemore, Student Representative; Kathryn Winters, Springfield; Maria Vorel, Mount Vernon; Binh Nguyen, Dranesville	
Commissioners Absent	Mattie Palmore, Minority At-Large; Julia T. Boone, Hunter Mill; Emily McCoy, Lee; Miriam Swydan Erickson, Providence	
Vacant Seats	Braddock District	
Visitors	Joanne Killeen and Nancy Krakover	
Recorder	Michelle Mueller	
Staff Present	Ina Fernández and Michelle Mueller	
1. Farewell to Retired Commissioner		
Discussion	Commissioners thanked and said farewell to former Commissioner Nancy Krakover and presented her with a certificate of thanks for her service on the Commission.	
2. Approval of November Minutes		
Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar asked the Commissioners to review the November 2014 minutes.	
Conclusions	Ms. Lippa moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.	

3. Approval of November Financial Reports	
Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar asked the Commissioners to review the November 2014 financial reports.
Conclusions	Ms. Hemenway moved to approve the financial reports, and Ms. Lippa seconded the motion. Six Commissioners voted to approve the minutes and Ms. Winters abstained.
4. Friends of the Commission Update	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Mueller reported that the Friends had elected their board at their November 18 meeting. Commissioners stated that they would like to build a closer relationship with the Friends and discuss the parameters of their work.</p> <p>Commissioners' intended actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written document by the Commission setting out what they expect from the Friends • A joint meeting to discuss the role and the aims of the Friends, and how to structure their ongoing relationship • Attendance at Commission meetings by members of the Friends board, to ensure that they understand the Commission's agenda and can focus their efforts on it • Opportunities for the Friends board and Commissioners to meet and get to know each other • Changing the regular meeting date of the Friends to a week after the Commission meeting, to allow time to write up the outcomes of the Commission meeting • Offer mentoring by an expert from NACW <p>Tasks which Commissioners have said so far that they would like the Friends to undertake are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation of a database of contacts 2. Fundraising 3. Development of contacts/potential volunteers for Commission needs 4. Take advantage of the services of Volunteer Fairfax
5. AAUW On the Go Segment	
Discussion	Ms. Bhatnagar reported that she had received a DVD of her interview for the AAUW's cable access show. Other Commissioners agreed to research options to convert and post it.

	<p>Ms. Vorel reported that Ms. Palmore had met with members of Mt. Vernon AAUW after meeting them at a human trafficking training.</p>
<p>6. Human Trafficking</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Mueller provided an information sheet on human trafficking she had created for the Friends. She indicated to them that it had not been approved as a Commission publication. She also shared it with the League of Women Voters for background for their newsletter article.</p> <p>Ms. Vorel asked where to refer people who want a trafficking speaker for their group, and Ms. Mueller said to use the online form on the website of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative or JustAskVA.org</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that the Human Trafficking Awareness Month proclamation had been planned for January 13. Kyra Beckman of Spartans Against Human Trafficking at West Springfield High School had agreed to accept the proclamation. The display area in the Government Center was reserved for the week.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that the AAUW and LWV had invited the Commission to cosponsor a human trafficking training at 3:00-4:30 pm on January 25 at the Falls Church Community Center. Cosponsoring would entail inviting our constituency. The Commissioners requested that the information and display about the Commission and Just Ask be included.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that the Commission for Women of the City of Fairfax had requested that the Commission work with them on a human trafficking event, possibly to occur in March of 2015.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that Just Ask had held its first board meeting on November 19. Ms. Mueller will be the Vice President of the foundation. Activities of the foundation will lead to opportunities for involvement by the Commission. Training of staff at community centers and middle school after school programs led to discussion of an art contest that could be sponsored by the Commission. Ms. Fernández suggested that it could be part of the joint effort with the Fairfax City Commission.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar stated that the next meeting of the Human Trafficking Committee would take place at 7 pm on January</p>

	<p>6 at the Mason Government Center. Ms. Mueller was asked to forward the address. Committee members include Ms. Lippa, Ms. Bhatnagar, Ms. Boone, Ms. Nguyen and Ms. Hemenway, but any Commissioners are welcome to participate.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Ms. Hemenway moved to hold a proclamation reception at 8:30-9:30 am on January 13, and to approve up to \$500 for the expenses. Ms. Vorel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Vorel moved that the Commission cosponsor the January 25 training with AAUW and LWV. Ms. Nguyen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners will participate, invite attendees and take the display board and brochures.</p> <p>Ms. Nguyen made a motion for the Human Trafficking Committee to meet with the Fairfax City Commission to plan a human trafficking event. Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Nguyen suggested that involvement of other partners be considered, such as GMU.</p>
7. Women's History Month	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Bhatnagar pointed out that March 2015 will be Women's History Month, and the theme will be Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Ms. Hemenway moved to set up a committee to work on Women's History Month and to hold a reception and allocate up to \$500 for expenses. Ms. Nguyen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Hemenway, Ms. Bhatnagar and Ms. Killeen expressed interest in working on the committee. Ms. Lippa reminded everyone that she had recommended creating standing committees for recurring events such as WHM.</p>
8. Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Vorel reported that approximately 30 people attended the regional meeting on November 14. They discussed many ideas regarding how commissions can network to support each other. There will be a regional conference in 2015.</p>

9. Biennial Report Update	
Discussion	Ms. Mueller informed Commissioners that she had provided copies of the Biennial Report to members of the Board of Supervisors, and Commissioners should follow up with their Supervisors.
10. Channel 16 Suffragist Video	
Discussion	Ms. Fernández reported that Channel 16 had determined to produce two seven-minute videos rather than one 30-minute video. The first video would focus on the suffragist movement and the second on the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Ms. McCoy and Ms. Mueller will set up a meeting with the producer.
11. Workplace Violence Policy	
Discussion	Ms. Mueller reported that the planning group will meet again to work on the workplace violence policy tip sheet for employers. Commissioners asked to see a draft when it is ready.
12. Student Advisory Group	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Mueller reported that the students who were interviewed but not selected as Student Representative had expressed interest in being part of a student advisory group.</p> <p>Ms. Sizemore stated that the next step should be to get the group together and discuss three or four possible projects. For example, they could advise on human trafficking or Women’s History Month, or help with an art contest. Ms. Lippa volunteered to help with the advisory group.</p>
Conclusion	Ms. Vorel moved to establish a Student Advisory Group. Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
13. Community Reports	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Sizemore reported that she had been selected for the Hugh O’Brian Youth leadership program.</p> <p>Ms. Vorel reported that she had met with former Commissioner Kari Warren, who had offered to organize a fundraiser for the Friends and also has a display of all missing children from Virginia which could be used at the</p>

	<p>proclamation.</p> <p>Ms. Nguyen pointed out that the new voter ID requirements are an important issue in many communities.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that Girls Inc., the City of Fairfax Commission and Deepa Patel of Just Ask were holding an event on Martin Luther King Day for girls to assemble packages for sex trafficking victims. Commissioners asked her to forward the notice.</p>
Conclusion	<p>At 9:10 pm Ms. Vorel moved to go into closed session. Ms. Lippa seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:30 pm the Commission moved out of closed session.</p>
14. Retreat	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Vorel moved to hold a Commission retreat in the near future addressing vision, process, structure, expectations and other topics, and to allocate up to \$100 for expenses. Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Vorel and Ms. Winters volunteered to work on planning the retreat.</p>
Additional Meeting Information	
Meeting Adjourned	<p>The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.</p>
Materials Distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Meeting Notice and Agenda for December 8, 2014 • Meeting Minutes for November 2014 • Financial Reports for November 2014 • Friends of the Fairfax County Commission for Women Board List • Friends of the Fairfax County Commission for Women Pledge Form • Bylaws of the Friends of the Fairfax County Commission for Women • Human Trafficking Information Sheet • January 25 Human Trafficking Training Notice

Next Meeting	January 12, 2014 at 7:15 pm at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference room 232.
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