



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: March 9, 2015	Time: 7:19 – 9:23 pm	Location: Government Center, Room 232
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Meeting Commenced	Chair Bhatnagar called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm.
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Commissioners Present	Cynthia Bhatnagar, Chair, Mason; Sondra Seba Hemenway, Vice Chair, At-Large; Barbara Lippa, Treasurer, Sully; Laura Sizemore, Student Representative; Maria Vorel, Mount Vernon; Emily McCoy, Lee; Charlie Brown, Braddock; Binh Nguyen, Dranesville
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Commissioners Absent	Miriam Swydan Erickson, Providence; Kathryn Winters, Springfield; Mattie Palmore, Minority At-Large
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Vacant Seats	Hunter Mill District
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Visitors	Sherry Dana
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Recorder	Michelle Mueller
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Staff Present	Michelle Mueller
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1. Introduction of Visitors

Discussion	Ms. Dana is a board member of the Friends of the Commission.
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2. Approval of February Minutes

Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar asked the Commissioners to review the February 2015 minutes.
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Conclusions	Ms. McCoy moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Lippa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
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3. Approval of February Financial Reports

Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar asked the Commissioners to review the January 2015 financial reports.
Conclusions	Ms. Lippa moved to approve the financial reports, and Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Vacant Seat	
Discussion	Ms. Mueller emailed the Supervisor's office for confirmation that the Hunter Mill seat is vacant, and Supervisor Hudgins said she would advise the Commission as soon as possible. Chair Bhatnagar had heard from Supervisor Hudgins that the Hunter Mill District Commissioner had resigned, but no resignation has been received and the seat is not vacant according to the report from the last BOS meeting.
5. Women's History Month Proclamation	
Discussion	<p>The proclamation and reception were successful. Five Supervisors and one School Board member attended. The proclamation recipient, Edith Mayo, was very pleased. Commissioners appreciated the participation of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial board. Ms. McCoy reported that photos of the event had been posted on the TPSM website under events.</p> <p>Vice Chair Hemenway noted that the Commission would benefit from a camera as well as a display board or banner. She volunteered to investigate prices. Ms. Vorel stated that another tablecloth would be useful.</p> <p>Ms. Nguyen asked about producing fewer copies for the Commission meetings, which led to discussion.</p>
6. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Art Contest	
Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar and Ms. Mueller attended the OFWDSVS Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Art Contest Reception. The Commission was thanked at the event for providing the awards for the winners, who were all young men. Several Supervisors and the Chief of Police attended.
7. Fairfax County FY2016 Budget	
Discussion	Ms. Mueller distributed summaries of the proposed changes in the FY2016 County budget affecting the Department of Family Services. The County is proposing to cover 2.5

	<p>positions at DVAC for which grant funding is ending. However, several effective DFS prevention programs would be reduced or eliminated. She provided the schedule of Supervisors' budget town hall meetings. Ms. Mueller also provided the budget testimony that Chair Bhatnagar will provide to the Human Services Council and the Board of Supervisors, in support of those programs. The BOS testimony will be on April 7.</p>
<p>8. Commission for Women Spending</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Mueller provided a listing and breakdown by categories of Commission spending over the past two years. The breakdown indicates that the Commission has prioritized two main issues in its spending, the selected issue of human trafficking and domestic violence.</p>
<p>9. NACW Annual Conference</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Bhatnagar pointed out that the annual NACW conference would take place in Indianapolis in July and the registration deadline is May 31. Ms. Mueller reported that it would cost roughly \$1,300 to send a person to the conference.</p> <p>Commissioners suggested giving officers or most senior Commissioners the option to attend. Ms. Mueller pointed out that usually very few people indicate that they would be able to attend.</p>
<p>Conclusions</p>	<p>Ms. Vorel moved to send two people to the conference each year; to give the Chair first choice whether to attend; and to rotate the other slot. She also moved that attendees make a report to the Commission by September. Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p>
<p>10. Human Trafficking</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported that all four Northern Virginia Commissions for Women will be participating in planning the joint event on human trafficking, tentatively scheduled for September 27 in the afternoon. The Fairfax City Commission was able to reserve use of the Sherwood Community Center at no cost. Tentative plans include information tables, rotating workshops, and a survey of attendees. The intended audience is the general public, and attendance would be solicited through media and through</p>

	<p>sponsorships by other organizations.</p> <p>Ms. Mueller reported that Just Ask is in need of volunteers to assist with nonprofit application paperwork and volunteer management. Ms. Vorel suggested using Volunteer Fairfax.</p> <p>Ms. Hemenway moved to support the proposed joint human trafficking event date of September 27. Ms. Sizemore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p>
<p>11. Retreat</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Vorel stated that the retreat will be on April 11, 9:30 am - 4 pm. She said that an agenda would be emailed. She asked that Commissioners reply to the online survey, and also asked that Commissioners help to find a location for the retreat, and report to her within one week.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed purchasing lunch, and Ms. Vorel stated that she would rather see funds used as a token of appreciation for the facilitator.</p>
<p>Conclusions</p>	<p>Ms. McCoy moved to authorize up to \$300 for a meeting place for the retreat. Ms. Hemenway seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention. Ms. Nguyen abstained.</p> <p>Ms. Hemenway moved to allocate \$600 for the retreat facilitator. Ms. Nguyen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.</p>
<p>12. Student Advisory Group</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Sizemore reported that a meeting of the Student Advisory Group had been set for March 24 at 7 pm. She stated that while there were several ideas for activities the group could undertake, the group would generate a proposal after meeting.</p>
<p>13. Turning Point Suffragist Memorial/Video</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. McCoy reported that work on the video would begin on April 1.</p> <p>She also reported that TPSM had begun a campaign to generate \$1,000 donations from 1000 people.</p>
<p>14. DVPPCC Update</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. McCoy stated that the DVPPCC meets quarterly, and</p>

	will meet in April, so there is nothing new to report.
15. Workplace Violence Policy	
Discussion	The dissemination plan will be discussed at the April DVPPCC meeting, pending meeting with Countywide Domestic Violence Coordinator Sandy Bromley.
16. Friends of the Commission Update	
Discussion	Chair Bhatnagar reported that the Friends will meet on March 17 and that she would not be able to attend. Ms. Hemenway and Ms. Lippa reported that they would attend.
17. Community Reports	
Discussion	<p>Ms. Sizemore reported that she was advocating with the Superintendent of Schools regarding icy school sidewalks. She will be travelling to Stanford as part of a girls' programming team.</p> <p>Ms. Brown reported that there will be a Community Conversation on Teen Stress on May 9; the deadline for workshop proposals is March 13. Ms. Brown will be presenting on self-harming behavior.</p> <p>Ms. Bhatnagar reported on a gala for the GIRLS group; she will resend the invitation via email.</p>
18. Retreat	
Conclusions	Ms. Vorel moved to go into closed session for the day of the retreat meeting. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
Additional Meeting Information	
Meeting Adjourned	The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.
Materials Distributed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Meeting Notice and Agenda for March 9, 2015 • Meeting Minutes for February 2015 • Financial Reports for February 2015 • CFW Expenditures March 2013 - February 2015 • NACW Annual Conference notice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FY 2016 Advertise Budget Town Hall Meetings Calendar• Chairman Bulova's Community Budget Dialogues Flyer• FY 2016 DFS Proposed Budget Adjustments• CFW Budget Testimony• Flyers for Healthy Families Fairfax, Parenting Education Program and Body Safety Program• Notice of Shelter House Benefit Breakfast• Save the Date for OFWDSVS Sexual Assault Awareness Month Walk• Flyer for Human Trafficking Training sponsored by Democratic Women of Clifton• Flyer for Human Trafficking Training sponsored by Just Ask
Next Meeting	March 9, 2015 at 7:15 pm at the Fairfax County Government Center, conference room 232.