

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – July 11, 2022

Call to Order

A full-body meeting of the Commission for Women was held on July 11, 2022, virtually via Zoom. It was called to order at 7:18 p.m. and was presided over by Vice-Chair Helen Cole, who read the FOIA script.

Attendees

In attendance: Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Jane Materna – Mason District; Emily McCoy – Lee District (Ex- Officio); Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Mattie Palmore – At-Large, Underserved; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Lee District; Lanita Thweatt – Mt. Vernon District.

Absent: Phylicia Woods – Providence District.

Staff in attendance: Toni Zollicoffer and Lois Kirkpatrick.

Guests/Visitors: Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services Deputy Director Alycia Blackwell.

Start time: 7:18 p.m.

End Time: 9:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved, with noted corrections to misspellings of the names of Jane Materna and Carla Post.

Approval of Financial Report

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Alyssa Batchelor and seconded by Alesia Taylor-Boyd. None opposed; none abstained; the motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker

Review of the Human Services Issue Paper – The Deputy Director of the Fairfax County Dept. of Human Services, Alycia Blackwell, reviewed the request for comment on the Human Services Issue Paper, which is a supplement to the 2023 Fairfax County Legislative Program. Jane Materna agreed to collect and collate input from commissioners and send it to staff.

Old Business

August 27 Strategy Meeting – Lois Kirkpatrick asked for a head count for the August 27 meeting; all present commissioners indicated they plan to attend.

Roe v. Wade Repeal – Commissioners reviewed and revised a statement drafted by Alyssa Batchelor. Helen Cole made a motion to have each commissioner present the revised statement to their respective member of the Board of Supervisors. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously. Commissioners plan to vote on next steps at their August 27 strategic planning meeting.

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New Business

Process to Fill Student Representative Seat – Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to have staff send a recruitment flyer to area high schools. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion carried unanimously.

Changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act – Lois Kirkpatrick reported that when the Board of Supervisors ends the local COVID-19 state of emergency, Fairfax County boards, authorities and commissions will have to go back to meeting in person. These groups will be allowed to meet virtually two times per year or for 25 percent of their annual meetings, whichever is greater. This applies to the main group as well as to any sub-committees. The county attorney's office has drafted a new meeting policy that all such groups will have to adopt; the Commission for Women agreed to vote to adopt the new meeting policy at their September 12 meeting.

Resuming In-Person Meetings – Helen Cole moved to return to in-person meetings with the September 12 commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Carla Post. Opposed were Alyssa Batchelor, Jane Materna and Lanita Thweatt. None abstained; the motion carried. Jane Materna asked that meetings be held at the Mason District office. Staff will book meeting space there or at the Government Center.

Commissioner Community Updates – This agenda item was skipped due to lack of time.

Main Motions

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Alyssa Batchelor and seconded by Alesia Taylor-Boyd. None opposed; none abstained; the motion carried unanimously.

Helen Cole made a motion to have each commissioner present the draft statement about the repeal of Roe v. Wade to their respective member of the Board of Supervisors. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to have staff send a recruitment flyer to area high schools. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion carried unanimously.

Helen Cole moved to return to in-person meetings with the September 12 commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Carla Post. Opposed were Alyssa Batchelor, Jane Materna and Lanita Thweatt; none abstained; the motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Carla Post to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Enjoli Ramsey. None opposed; none abstained; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.