

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – August 27, 2022

Start time: 9:16 a.m.

Attendees

Phylcia Woods – Providence District; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Jane Materna – Mason District; 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.

Absent: Lanita Thweatt – Mt. Vernon District; Emily McCoy – Lee District (Ex- Officio).

Staff in attendance: Lois Kirkpatrick.

Facilitator: Raven Freeborn.

The Commission completed an orientation to the meeting's goals along with a check-in activity. The members designed group agreements, participated in a connection activity, and committed to "generative conflict" during the meeting.

Attendees discussed the Commission for Women's history, including identifying limiting or harmful behaviors that contributed to ruptures in the Commission's functioning during the pandemic.

The facilitator described a process for preventing future ruptures to the Commission's functioning: (1) identify action options; (2) quantify any harm that may result from taking the various action options, and (3) make an adjustment to the group's operations to prevent ruptures and promote repair.

Commissioners agreed that they need to know what tasks or assistance can be asked of staff and what cannot. There was also a question about whether the Freedom of Information Act allows public bodies to have closed meetings about human relations issues. In addition, there was a request for written instructions about how each commissioner should work with her appointing member of the Board of Supervisors. There was also a call to include fewer items on each monthly meeting agenda in order to allow time for more thoughtful and thorough discussions.

The Commission's annual group photo was taken.

End Time: 2:37 p.m.