

# Minutes for the Commission for Women

## Commission for Women Meeting – November 14, 2022

### Call to Order

A full-body meeting of the Commission for Women was held on November 14, 2022, virtually via Zoom. It was called to order at 7:19 p.m. and was presided over by Chair Phylcia Woods. Vice-Chair Helen Cole read the Freedom of Information Act notice. Helen Cole moved to affirm that the meeting was being held in accordance with FOIA. Jordan Tautges seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

### Attendees

In attendance: Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Emily McCoy – Lee District (Ex- Officio); Mattie Palmore – At-Large, Underserved; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Lee District; Lanita Thweatt – Mt. Vernon District; Phylcia Woods – Providence District; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Alessandra Simmons-Robles, Student Representative.

**Absent:** Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Emily McCoy – Lee District (Ex- Officio); Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Lee District.

**Staff in attendance:** Toni Zollicoffer and Lois Kirkpatrick.

**Guest Speaker/Visitors:** None.

**Start time:** 7:19 p.m.

**End Time:** 9:22 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Carla Post moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 meeting. Enjoli Ramsey seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Financial Report

Jordan Tautges moved to approve the financial report. Enjoli Ramsey seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

### Introduction of New Student Commissioner

The commission's new student representative, Alessandra Simmons-Robles, introduced herself. Ms. Simmons-Robles is a senior at Justice High School in Falls Church. Among other activities, she works on the student newspaper and is active in Girl Up, a program of the United Nations Foundation.

### Social Media Briefing

County Attorney Joanna Faust was scheduled to present at this meeting. After an afternoon exchange with the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, it was decided that her presentation would be postponed. The Office of Public Affairs' position is that because the members of county boards, authorities and commissions – including the Commission for Women – are appointed by the Board of

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Supervisors, and because BACs conduct projects and initiatives in support of the work of Fairfax County government, case law suggests that BAC social media accounts would be deemed “official county accounts” were there to be litigation. The Office of Public Affairs plans to develop policies for the operation of BAC social media accounts. Once these are in place, the Commission for Women can proceed to post content on Facebook and Twitter.

Jordan Tautges requested that each Commission for Women member send her a photo and two to three sentences explaining why they joined the commission. These are due to Jordan Tautges and Alesia Taylor-Boyd by December 15, 2022. They will be posted on the commission’s social media in 2023 to introduce the public to commission members. Phylcia Woods confirmed that she has logins for the commission’s social media accounts.

## **Finalize 2023 Projects**

Toni Zollicoffer explained that the county is launching a year-long research project evaluating the status of women and girls in Fairfax County. This project is outlined on [pages 54-55 of this summary](#) of the October 11, 2022 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Toni Zollicoffer explained that Helen Cole had represented the commission on the committee whose work resulted in this proposed research project. Helen Cole made a motion to have representatives from the commission serve on the 2023 research project. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

The following commissioners volunteered to serve on a committee supporting the research project: Helen Cole, Mattie Palmore, Carla Post, Enjoli Ramsey, Jordan Tautges, Phylcia Woods and Lanita Thweatt. Toni Zollicoffer will email Supervisor Dalia Palchik regarding the commission’s participation in this project.

In addition to this research project, the commission will also complete a biennial report in 2023, as well as host a Women’s History Month event. Commissioners were urged to consider how much time and energy they may have to take on additional projects outside of these commitments. Carla Post will create a survey of additional projects for commission members to rank. The top-ranked project(s) will be discussed and voted on at the December 12, 2022 commission meeting.

## **Old Business**

**Girls’ Softball Fields Task Force** – Lois Kirkpatrick explained that the task force is finalizing their report for the Board of Supervisors’ December meeting.

**Approve Updated Logo** – Fairfax County Communications Specialist Kendra Lee presented the updated logo to the commission. Mattie Palmore moved to approve the new logo and tagline. Jordan Tautges seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

**Transportation** – Lois Kirkpatrick confirmed that the commission can use Department of Family Services transportation funds when needed by commission members to get to and from commission meetings. Staff will process each request through the department’s finance division. Finance agreed to make up to \$5,000 available per year.

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## **New Business**

**Women's History Month: Breakfast of Champions** – Lois Kirkpatrick outlined the commission's 2023 Women's History Month celebration. It will be a breakfast meeting on Friday, March 31, 2023. The five Northern Virginia commissions for women (Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria and Loudoun) will be invited, along with allied women's groups and clubs. The commission agreed to follow the National Women's History Alliance theme for 2023, which is women who tell our stories, including journalists, bloggers, podcasters, filmmakers, etc. The planning committee consists of Lanita Thweatt, Alessandra Simmons-Robles, Jordan Tautges and Helen Cole. Phylcia Woods will write the proclamation for Women's History Month, and Helen Cole will organize meetings for the planning committee.

**Commissioner Community Updates** – Mattie Palmore reported that she spoke on domestic violence at two churches in October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## **Main Motions**

Helen Cole moved to have representatives from the commission serve on the county research project evaluating the status of women and girls in Fairfax County. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

Mattie Palmore moved to approve the commission's new logo and tagline. Jordan Tautges seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

Mattie Palmore moved to adjourn the meeting; Carla Post seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.