

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – December 12, 2022

Call to Order

A full-body meeting of the Commission for Women was held on December 12, 2022, virtually via Zoom. It was called to order at 7:16 p.m. and was presided over by Chair Phylicia 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. Alyssa Batchelor 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; Phylicia Woods – Providence District; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Alessandra Simmons-Robles, Student Representative; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large.

Absent: None.

Staff in attendance: Toni Zollicoffer and Lois Kirkpatrick.

Guest Speaker/Visitors: Debra Miller.

Start time: 7:16 p.m.

End Time: 9:26 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Helen Cole moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting. Jordan Tautges seconded the motion. Alyssa Batchelor abstained because she was not at the November meeting. None opposed. The motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

Alyssa Batchelor moved to approve the financial report. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

Social Media Evergreen Content

Lois Kirkpatrick explained that because the members of county boards, authorities and commissions – including the Commission for Women – are appointed by the Board of 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.

In the meantime, the Department of Family Services has agreed to publish one Commission for Women post per week on the DFS Facebook page, starting in January. Jordan Tautges and Alesia Taylor-Boyd showed sample Facebook posts they have created for this purpose. Carla Post asked if the commission

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needs permission from notable Fairfax County women to post about them on Facebook. Toni Zollicoffer asked Jordan Tautges and Alesia Taylor-Boyd to notify subjects that they will be featured in a Facebook post unless they inform the commission by the deadline that they do not wish to be included.

The commission will start by posting about commission members and historical women while gathering permission from current-day subjects. Jordan Tautges requested that each commissioner send her two to three sentences explaining why they joined the commission. These are due to Jordan Tautges and Alesia Taylor-Boyd by December 15, 2022. The info will be included in Facebook posts.

Old Business

Women's History Month – Phylcia Woods will write the proclamation for the Board of Supervisors to declare March Women's History Month in Fairfax County. The group discussed the idea of having the Women's History Month event on a Saturday. Lois Kirkpatrick shared a document showing that six Northern Virginia chambers of commerce regularly have breakfast meetings on weekday mornings, and that doing so allows working mothers to have shorter commutes and fewer child care issues than meeting on a weekend. The commission voted to host the event on Friday, March 31 at 8:30 a.m.

Projects for 2023 – Carla Post created a survey about potential projects for the commission to pursue in 2023. The survey was taken by seven of the commissioners. The group discussed preliminary survey results and decided that teen depression and mental health would be one area of focus for 2023, and reproductive health and domestic violence another focus (domestic violence tends to skyrocket during pregnancy).

Girls' Softball Fields Task Force – Alesia Taylor-Boyd gave background info on the issue and said that the report will be finalized this month and possibly presented at a Board of Supervisors' meeting in January.

New Business

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Request – The Domestic and Sexual Violence Services' Youth Education and Outreach Specialist Debra Miller requested that the commission sponsor the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month art contest again this year, as they had in the past. Alyssa Batchelor moved to approve that the commission sponsor five prizes for contest winners in the amount of one \$100 gift card per prize for a total of \$500 plus any associated administrative fees. The commission moved to also approve that one of the five prize categories be established by the commission. Carla Post seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Meeting Schedule for 2023 – Alyssa Batchelor moved to approve the commission's meeting schedule for 2023. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Biennial Report – Lois Kirkpatrick reminded the commission that it publishes a report every two years, and that the next one is due to come out at the end of 2023. She suggested that a committee be formed to work on the report in late spring.

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Recruitment for Vacant Seats – Lois Kirkpatrick noted that two commission seats – the LGBTQ representative and the trans-woman representative – are still vacant. She agreed to send links to commissioners to forward to people who may want to apply.

Research Project: State of Women and Girls in Fairfax County – Toni Zollicoffer explained that a number of commissioners expressed interest in serving on this project in some capacity during various stages. Two have been named to serve during the partner selection/project scoping phase. Others will be offered the chance to participate during future stages of the project.

Commissioner Community Updates – Emily McCoy reported that two Virginia senators sent a letter to Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell to have the deadline removed from the Equal Rights Amendment. Carla Post announced that Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust is retiring. Phylcia Woods noted that she attended the celebration of the extension of the Silver Line railway. Lanita Thweatt attended a dinner given by Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck for members of boards, authorities and commissions. The participants were impressed with the work of the Commission for Women. Alyssa Batchelor noted that Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross will not run for reelection next year. Mattie Palmore announced that she won a raffle to have lunch with Supervisor Storck at the Della J restaurant in Alexandria.

Main Motions

Alyssa Batchelor moved to approve that the commission sponsor five \$100 gift card prizes for the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month art contest winners. Carla Post seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Alyssa Batchelor moved to approve the commission's meeting schedule for 2023. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Alyssa Batchelor moved to adjourn the meeting; Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.