

# Minutes for the Commission for Women

## Commission for Women Meeting – January 9, 2023

### Call to Order

A full-body meeting of the Commission for Women was held on January 9, 2023, virtually via Zoom. It was called to order at 7:15 p.m. and was presided over by Vice-Chair Alyssa Batchelor. 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

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; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Alessandra Simmons-Robles, Student Representative; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large.

**Absent:** Phylcia Woods – Providence District

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

**Guest Speaker/Visitors:** Michael Becketts

**Start time:** 7:15 p.m.

**End Time:** 9:05 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Carla Post moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None abstained; none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Financial Report

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

### Research Project: State of Women and Girls in Fairfax County

The Director of the Department of Family Services, Michael Becketts, proposed that the commission's report to the Board of Supervisors, "The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Fairfax County," be published alongside the upcoming research project on Fairfax County women and girls, which is slated for release at the end of the year. Carla Post made a motion to defer the report; Alessandra Simmons-Robles seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

### Old Business

**Approve the Proclamation for Women's History Month** – Emily McCoy proposed two edits to the draft proclamation. Alesia Taylor-Boyd made a motion to approve the proclamation as amended. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Women's History Month Event** – Helen Cole made a motion to budget \$7,500 for the commission's Women's History Month event scheduled for March 31. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Admission to the event will be free of charge, and the group will use a free online registration system such as Evite. Invited groups will include the northern Virginia commissions for women, the D.C. commission for women, and high school representatives from Girl Up and Ladies in Focus. Carla Post will find out whether the group can use Leidos' meeting facilities at the Reston Town Center. Pamela Montesinos suggested using the nonprofit bakery Together We Bake.

**Updated Survey Results and Projects for 2023** – The survey results were corrected to reflect that child care was the #2 topic voted on by commissioners. The group will pair up to research the top four topic areas and report back at the May commission meeting. These commissioners agreed to work in the committees: Pamela Montesinos, Helen Cole, Mattie Palmore, Alesia Taylor-Boyd and Alessandra Simmons-Robles. Mattie Palmore made a motion to create the four two-person committees; Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

## New Business

**In-Person Meetings** – Lois Kirkpatrick reported that she has reserved conference rooms in the Pennino building for commission meetings if and when boards, authorities and commissions go back to meeting in person. She also noted that two commission seats – the LGBTQ representative and the trans-woman representative – are still vacant. She will send links to commissioners to forward to their member of the Board of Supervisors to include in the board member's newsletter.

**Commissioner Community Updates** – Mattie Palmore, Helen Cole and others noted that there will be public hearings in their districts on affordable housing. Emily McCoy asked that commissioners be issued name tags as in the past. Helen Cole asked that commissioners also get business cards. Jordan asked commissioners to send her their content for Facebook posts. Pamela Montesinos reported that Western Fairfax Christian Ministries served more than 500 families at Thanksgiving and almost 500 at Christmas.

## Main Motions

Carla Post made a motion to defer the commission's report to the Board of Supervisors; Alessandra Simmons-Robles seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Alesia Taylor-Boyd made a motion to approve the Women's History Month proclamation as amended. Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Mattie Palmore made a motion to create four two-person committees to research projects for 2023; Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

## Adjournment

Carla Post moved to adjourn the meeting; Mattie Palmore seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.