

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – June 12, 2023

Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on June 12, 2023, in conference rooms 9/10 of the Fairfax County Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Phylcia Woods.

Attendees

Phylcia Woods – Providence District; Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Amber Beichler – At-Large; Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Lee District; Carla Post – Dranesville District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Sabrina Rose-Smith – Mason District.

Members Participating Remotely

Emily McCoy – Ex- Officio; Lanita Thweatt – Mt. Vernon District.

Absent: Mattie Palmore – At-Large, Underserved.

Staff in attendance: Toni Zollicoffer and Lois Kirkpatrick

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Guest Speakers: Tanisha Cox, Jessica Berg

Start time: 7:18 p.m.

End Time: 9:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Jordan Tautges asked for a correction to the May 8 minutes about which article she's writing for the biennial report. Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction. Sabrina Rose-Smith seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the financial report. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Program – Tanisha Cox

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Volunteer Manager Tanisha Cox outlined volunteer opportunities offered by DSVS. The commission can consider projects to work on as a group. Volunteer opportunities for individual commissioners can be arranged by contacting Tanisha Cox.

Women's History Curriculum – Jessica Berg

Rock Ridge High School Women and Gender Studies Teacher Jessica Berg informed the commission how and why she got Loudoun County Public Schools to offer women's studies classes. She also outlined the annual summit she created, which will next be held during Women's History Week on March 2, 2024.

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Old Business

Vote on Focus Areas for FY2024 – Carla Post briefed the group on the impact of the lack of affordable child care. Of the four issues that were researched by commissioners, the group decided to focus on these two in fiscal year 2024: (1) teen depression and mental health, and (2) violence against women. How the commission will work on these topics will be discussed at the July meeting.

Reimbursement for Attending Community Events – Lois Kirkpatrick reported that reimbursement for attending community events must first be pre-approved by the deputy county executive. Commissioners should submit requests for reimbursement at least three weeks before the event they want to attend.

Report-Out on Post-Dobbs Webinar – Alyssa Batchelor said the June 8 webinar which was co-sponsored by the commission had more than 100 people registered to attend. The webinar offered lots of useful information. It was recorded and can be viewed by those who were unable to attend it live.

Biennial Report Articles – Helen Cole reminded members that their articles for the biennial report are due to Lois Kirkpatrick by Friday, July 14.

Women and Girls Research Project – Toni Zollicoffer informed the group that a data dump was given to the University of Virginia, which is conducting the research for this project. As the project progresses through different phases, other commissioners will be rotated in to serve on the steering committee.

New Business

Human Services Issue Paper – Lois Kirkpatrick explained that the county has a legislative team that presents county priorities to state lawmakers. Each summer, the team asks the commission to comment on issues being taken to the Virginia General Assembly. This year, the team only wants to know if the commission wants a change to state law or the county budget, or a new county policy. If not, the commission doesn't have to respond. The team's position paper will be emailed to commissioners and discussed at the June executive committee meeting and the July commission meeting.

Commissioner Community Updates – Phylcia Woods reminded commissioners that missing three meetings in a row may result in the member being removed from the commission. She also said that when the commission meets on Zoom in July and December, those are real meetings, and missing them counts towards a member's absences.

Emily McCoy noted that the commission's member guide and the policies and procedures manual are being combined into a single document. Amber Beichler invited members to watch the recording of the Pride Month presentation given to the Board of Supervisors at their June 6 meeting. Lois Kirkpatrick said that several high school students have applied to serve on the commission next school year. Carla Post volunteered to help interview the candidates. Helen Cole and Alyssa Batchelor volunteered to serve again as interviewers if needed.

Adjournment

Helen Cole made a motion to adjourn. Alyssa Batchelor seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.