

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – July 10, 2023

Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on July 10, 2023, virtually on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Helen Cole.

Attendees

Helen Cole – Hunter Mill 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; Emily McCoy – Ex- Officio; Lanita Thweatt – Mt. Vernon District.

Absent: Mattie Palmore – At-Large, Underserved; Phylicia Woods – Providence District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District.

Staff in attendance: Lois Kirkpatrick

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Guest Speakers: Bethany Demers

Start time: 7:17 p.m.

End Time: 9:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Carla Post made a motion to approve the minutes. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Financial Report

Carla Post made a motion to approve the financial report. Enjoli Ramsey seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Resources for Teen Mental Health – Bethany Demers discussed the results of the Fairfax County Public Schools’ 2020-2021 youth survey. The report highlighted many of the mental health challenges that teens struggle with, and the school system’s efforts to address those challenges. The slide deck will be sent to commissioners.

Old Business

Legislative Packet/Reproductive Rights Task Force – The group discussed the proposed letter of support for the legislative packet. The group decided to add bullets for climate change and mental health to the list of bulleted items in the letter. Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the letter with those additions; Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None opposed; non abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

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Biennial Report Articles – Helen Cole reminded members that their articles for the biennial report are due to Lois Kirkpatrick by Friday, July 14. The biennial report committee will meet to review them on Tuesday, July 18.

Focus Areas for FY2024: Next Steps – Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to stand up two ad hoc committees to operate until June 2024: one to focus on violence against women and the other to focus on teen depression and mental health. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Lois Kirkpatrick proposed that the commission participate in the annual K9 Krawl event to raise awareness of the link between domestic violence and pet abuse. She proposed that the group buy t-shirts featuring the commission's logo to wear at the K9 Krawl and future events. Carla Post agreed to help find high-quality, environmentally friendly t-shirts. Helen Cole made a motion to spend up to \$850 on commission t-shirts. Pamela Montesinos seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Helen Cole asked everyone to come to the September meeting with an idea for an event or activity that the commission might be able to support during October in addition to the K9 Krawl. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Recruitment of Student Commissioner – Lois Kirkpatrick announced that Liz Hernandez Ramirez has been nominated to serve as the student representative to the commission. Her name has been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for appointment at their July 25 meeting.

Policy and Procedures Manual – Alyssa Batchelor and Emily McCoy reported that the commission's policies and procedures manual is being updated. Commissioners were asked to read it and send in any comments and suggestions before the executive committee meets on July 31. The commission will vote on approving the document at the September meeting.

New Business

Commissioner Community Updates – Alyssa Batchelor invited everyone to the launch party for her new business Hill & State Strategies.

Main Motions

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to approve the letter of support for the legislative packet with the additions of bullets for climate change and mental health. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

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Helen Cole made a motion to spend up to \$850 on commission t-shirts. Pamela Montesinos seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

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Adjournment

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to adjourn. Amber Beichler seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.