

Minutes for the Commission for Women

Commission for Women Meeting – October 9, 2023

Call to Order

The Commission for Women met on October 9, 2023, in Government Center conference rooms 9/10. The meeting was started at 7:18 p.m. by Phylicia Woods.

Attendees

Helen Cole – Hunter Mill District; Alyssa Batchelor – At-Large; Amber Beichler – At-Large; Alesia Taylor-Boyd – Lee District; Phylicia Woods – Providence District; Sabrina Rose-Smith – Mason District; Jordan Tautges – Springfield District.

Members Participating Remotely: Emily McCoy – Ex Officio from home due to health reasons; Mattie Palmore – At-Large, Underserved, from home; Carla Post – Dranesville District, from home due to health reasons.

Absent: Enjoli Ramsey – Braddock District; Pamela Montesinos – Sully District; Liz Hernandez Ramirez – Student Representative. Lanita Thweatt of the Mt. Vernon District resigned from the commission on October 9.

Staff in attendance: Toni Zollicoffer; Lois Kirkpatrick

Visitors: Maryjane Williams, American University student

Public Comment: None

Guest Speakers: Dr. Michael Becketts

Start time: 7:17 p.m.

End Time: 9:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Amber Beichler made a motion to approve the minutes. Alesia Taylor-Boyd seconded the motion. Sabrina Rose Smith abstained because she did not attend the September 11 meeting. None opposed; the motion passed.

Approval of Financial Report

Sabrina Rose Smith made a motion to approve the financial report. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Helping Professionals and Domestic Violence – Fairfax County Department of Family Services Director Dr. Michael Becketts presented a summary of his doctoral dissertation.

Old Business

Roberts Rules of Order Refresher – Sabrina Rose Smith explained the procedure for discussing topics in a different order than they appear on the meeting agenda. She also outlined the process for redirecting

Minutes for the Commission for Women

off-topic discussions. Votes must be moved and seconded before discussion; the commission votes after the discussion. Sabrina Rose Smith will send her notes to commissioners.

Remote Participation in Commission Meetings – Lois Kirkpatrick reviewed the county’s remote participation policy. Commissioners can participate remotely in up to 25% of commission meetings (three of the commission’s 11 annual monthly meetings) for reasons outlined in the policy. At the beginning of each meeting, the commission must vote on whether the chair addressed requests to participate remotely according to the policy.

Phylcia Woods got agreement that the commission will uphold bylaws article IX, which states that “any commissioner who misses three consecutive meetings or more than half of the scheduled meetings within a 12-month period ... may be subject to removal from the CFW.” An attendance report will be discussed in closed session at the November meeting.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities – Lois Kirkpatrick reviewed the activities spreadsheet. The following commissioners expressed interest in attending the Board of Supervisors’ Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on October 24: Alyssa Batchelor, Amber Beichler, Sabrina Rose Smith and Alesia Taylor-Boyd.

Biennial Report – Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to publish the biennial report. Sabrina Rose Smith seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy and Procedures Manual – Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to publish the Operations, Policies and Procedures manual after the edits Lois Kirkpatrick sent her have been made. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Focus Areas – Alyssa Batchelor proposed that commissioners read mental-health related books recommended by the Child Mind Institute to teens in libraries in May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month, in support of the commission’s focus on teens and mental health. Carla Post recommended that the commission form committees to research local organizations that are working in the commission’s two focus areas, and determine how to partner with them. Lois Kirkpatrick noted that the commission spent four months researching the focus areas in committees.

Social Media for 2024 – Due to time constraints, this topic was moved to the November meeting.

New Business

Women’s History Month 2024 – Due to time constraints, this topic was moved to the November meeting.

Girls on the Run Wellness Workshop – Lois Kirkpatrick informed the group that Girls on the Run will present a mental health and self-care workshop at the November meeting to offer commissioners tools for managing holiday stress.

Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule – Lois Kirkpatrick explained that county policy allows boards, authorities and commissions to meet remotely for 25% of their meetings (three times per year for this

Minutes for the Commission for Women

commission). In 2024, the commission will meet on Zoom in February, July and December. Because of county holidays that fall on the second Monday of October and November, the commission will meet on Tuesday, October 15 and Tuesday, November 12.

Commissioner Community Updates – Emily McCoy announced her resignation.

Main Motions

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to publish the biennial report. Sabrina Rose Smith seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Alyssa Batchelor made a motion to publish the Operations, Policies and Procedures manual after the edits Lois Kirkpatrick sent her have been made. Helen Cole seconded the motion. None opposed; none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Sabrina Rose Smith made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.